DC BATMAN

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BAT MAN

BATMAN TODAY-- IN THE SWINGING '70'S

BATMAN VS. MAN-BAT IN "KING OF THE GOTHAM JUNGLE!"

BATMAN IN THE FABULOUS '40'S

BATMAN IN THE FURIOUS '50'S

BATMAN IN THE SIZZLING '60'S

BATMAN IN THE FANTASTIC FUTURE

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SUPER-SPECTACULAR

BATMAN

NO. 254

JAN.-FEB. 1974

COVER:
NICK CARDY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BATMAN in the SWINGING SEVENTIES
"KING OF THE GOTHAM JUNGLE" 4
Who is the top crime-fighter of *Gotham City* . . . *The Batman* or *The Man-Bat?* The *Masked Manhunter* pits his wits and skill against the fantastic powers of a strange night creature—as each tries to capture the *Getaway Genius!* It's *The Batman's* newest adventure!

BATMAN in the FABULOUS FORTIES
"THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM" 18
A writer is murdered—by a *witch!* The manuscript of his latest book is stolen! Why? *The Batman* and *Robin* must find out in order to trap the killer!

BATMAN in the FURIOUS FIFTIES
"THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB" 32
Come to a meeting of the strangest club in *Gotham City*—the initiation fee is a bullet removed from the new member's body! But the *Dynamic Duo* is puzzled by a detective who risks his life in an attempt to join the club!

BATMAN in the SIZZLING SIXTIES
"THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN" 47
Meet the most audacious criminal the *Caped Crusader* has ever faced! He steals the *Batmobile* . . . the *Batboat* . . . and *Robin!* Why?

ROBIN in the SWINGING SEVENTIES
"THE PHENOMENAL MEMORY OF LUKE GRAHAM" 64
One man has a clue to the criminals' whereabouts—but that clue is locked deep in the recesses of his mind! It's up to the *Teen Wonder* to find a way to make *Luke Graham* remember! It's *Robin's* latest exploit!

BATMAN in the FANTASTIC FUTURE
"THE SON OF THE JOKER" 74
Come to an imaginary future, as *Alfred, Batman's* butler, tells of a time when *Robin* has become the second *Batman, Bruce Wayne's* son is *Robin II* . . . and even *The Joker* has an heir!

A BATMAN EXTRA
"THE GUARDIAN OF THE BAT-SIGNAL" 86
One of the most important jobs at police headquarters is manning the signal that is used to call *Batman!* So when the *Bat-Signal* fails to flash, the *Caped Crime-fighter* must discover *why!*

SPECIAL FEATURES

BATMAN ODDITIES 73

BAT-MAZE 85

LETTERS TO THE BATMAN 96

N-808

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LISTEN, GANG! THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF MY MOST INTERESTING CASES FROM THE PAST! A COUPLE OF 'EM GO PRETTY FAR BACK... BUT I'M GOING TO START OFF WITH MY VERY LATEST ADVENTURE... A CASE I ALMOST DIDN'T CRACK! STILL, I HAD SOME REALLY FANTASTIC HELP IN THIS SWINGING STORY OF TODAY!
SKREEEK! MY APPEARANCE STRIKES TERROR IN THE HEARTS OF THE UNDERWORLD!
I HAVE UNHUMAN STRENGTH!
BLAM
BLAM
I CAN SEE IN THE DARK!
I CAN FLY!
WHAT CAN YOU DO, BATMAN, THAT I CAN'T DO BETTER?
SKREEEK!
A PROVOCATIVE CHALLENGE HURLED DOWN FROM ON HIGH BY A TRUE "CREATURE OF DARKNESS"— THAT EERIE MAN-MADE MUTATION KNOWN AS MAN-BAT! HOW CAN THE...
BATMAN
...MEET THIS BRAZEN BID FOR TOTAL SUPREMACY? OR MUST HE BOW TO A SUPERIOR CONTENDER FOR THE TITLE OF...
"KING OF THE GOTHAM JUNGLE!"
STORY: FRANK ROBBINS
ART: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
1

THE DEAD OF NIGHT--AND IN GOTHAM'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM A SOLITARY LIGHT BURNS...
...LIGHTING THE WORK OF A MAN WHO CHOOSES TO LABOR THROUGH THE SUNLESS HOURS THAT MATCH HIS TEMPERAMENT AND HIS SUBJECT...
...A BROODING MAN OF DARKNESS, PREPARING A NOCTURNAL-MAMMAL EXHIBIT--CURATOR KIRK LANGSTROM, BAT-SPECIALIST EXTRAORDINARY...
...WHOSE CONCENTRATION IS BROKEN ONLY BY THE OCCASIONAL INTERRUPTION OF A RADIO TUNED TO THE POLICE-BAND...
CAR 911, PROCEED TO BRANCH ALLEY AND DANVERS! BREAK-IN REPORTED IN PROGRESS AT "BUCKWISE" DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE!
AND TRY NOT TO LET THIS ONE GET AWAY, GUYS--THE COMMISSIONER HAS HAD IT BY NOW!
CAN'T BLAME COMMISSIONER GORDON! BUT IF THIS IS ANOTHER OF THE RECENT RASH OF UNSOLVED ROBBERIES PLAGUING THE POLICE...
...AS WELL AS THE BATMAN... THE HEISTERS WILL PULL IT OFF AGAIN WITH A PERFECTLY-PLANNED GETAWAY!
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE BATMAN AND I FOUGHT BACK-TO-BACK TO DEFEAT THE PREDATORS THAT PREY ON GOTHAM...
...BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY I GOT SIDE-TRACKED IN MY "MAN-BAT" EXPERIMENTS! LOST SIGHT OF MY ORIGINAL AIMS...
...TO ASSIST THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER, USING NIGHT-POWERS HE DOESN'T POSSESS!
HAS THAT TIME COME AGAIN?
2

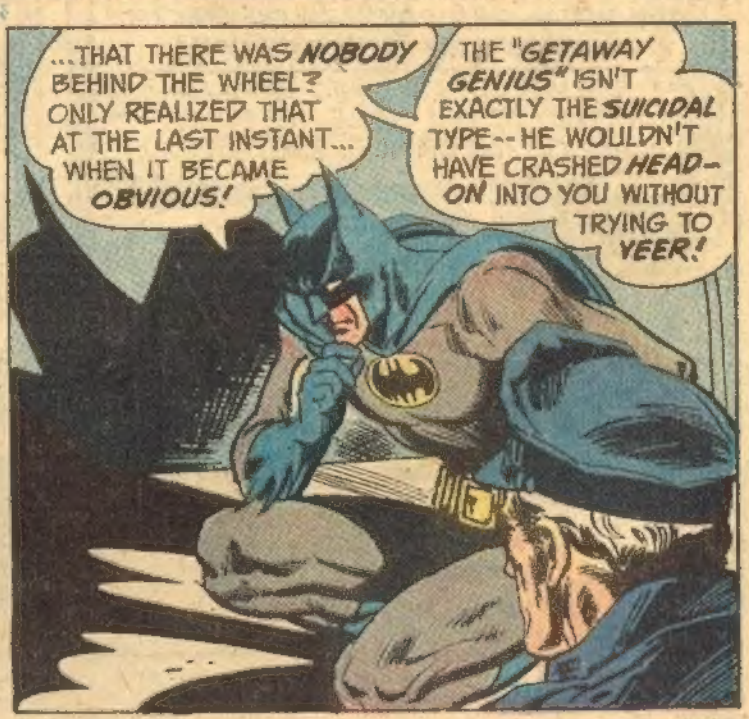
WHILE KIRK LANGSTROM WEIGHS A DECISION FRAUGHT WITH PERIL, CAR 911 RACES TO THE REPORTED TROUBLE-SPOT...
THE WAREHOUSE'S SILENT BURGLAR-ALARM SHOULD GIVE US THE JUMP ON 'EM!
IT'S AROUND THE NEXT CORNER, SAL...
RIGHT, TIM--BUT...
...LOOKS LIKE THE BATMAN BEAT US TO IT! THAT'S HIS CAR PARKED BY THE ALLEY..!
IF WE MOVE IN NOW--IT COULD MESS UP HIS OPERATION!
CHECK! SO WE STAKE OUT HERE--WITH OUR LIGHTS OUT--TO GIVE HIM BACK-UP SUPPORT--IF HE NEEDS IT!
AND THE MASKED MANHUNTER DOES HAVE HIS OWN PECULIAR STAKEOUT GOING...
IT'S THE SAME MOB, ALL RIGHT... BUT I'M NOT LETTING THEM SHAFT ME AGAIN!
THIS TIME I'LL LET THEM GET AWAY... TRAIL THEM AND MAKE THE NAB...
...WHEN THEY THINK THEY'RE IN THE CLEAR!
THAT'S ONE TWIST THAT "GETAWAY GENIUS," ROY REYNOLDS,* WON'T BE PREPARED FOR!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! EVERY JOB THIS CLEVER HEIST-GANG PULLS HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF THAT WILY SCHEMER!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: THE "GETAWAY GENIUS" FIRST APPEARED IN BATMAN #170, MARCH, 1965.
THEN...
THAT'S THE LOT, GANG! BUTTON UP...
...AND MOVE OUT!
3

NOW WHATEVER GIMMICK REYNOLDS HAD RIGGED FOR A FAST VANISHING ACT...
...IN CASE THEY WERE INTERRUPTED DURING THE CRIME...
...WILL BE SCRATCHED! WHICH LEAVES HIM WIDE OPEN...
...FOR A SURPRISE TAKE-OVER EN ROUTE!
I'LL TAG BEHIND, BLACKED-OUT... AND BIDE MY TIME!
INTENT ONLY ON HIS TARGET, THE USUALLY ALERT BATMAN HAS OVERLOOKED AN UNEXPECTED COMPLICATION--THE POLICE CAR!...
THE VAN IS TURNIN' INTO LEXINGTON AVENUE! WE CAN CIRCLE THE BLOCK AND CUT 'EM OFF AT THE INTERSECTION!
BETWEEN US AND THE BATMAN WE'LL BOX 'EM IN!
AND SO, PULSE-POUNDING MOMENTS LATER...
?! OH, THOSE EAGER-BEAVERS-- THEY'RE LOUSING ME UP!
MADE IT! NOW THEY'VE GOTTA STOP!
HOW'D THEY GET INTO THE ACT?
SKREEEEEEE-
BUT THE SPEEDING VAN DOESN'T STOP! IT'S HALTED ONLY BY...
KARAASH!
OKAY, PUNKS-- EVERYBODY OUT!
BETCHA YOU'RE TOO LATE, BOYS! THEY'RE ALREADY OUT!
4

ALREADY--OUT? HAVE YOU FLIPPED YOUR HOOD, BATMAN?
WE'LL SEE IN A MOMENT, OFFICER!

EMPTY?! NOBODY AT THE WHEEL...?
NEVER WAS! NOR INSIDE THE VAN, EITHER--

--EVEN THOUGH I SAW THE WHOLE MOB FILE INSIDE BEFORE THEY TOOK OFF!
BUT HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IT? AND HOW'D YOU KNOW BEFOREHAND...


...THAT THERE WAS NOBODY BEHIND THE WHEEL? ONLY REALIZED THAT AT THE LAST INSTANT... WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS!
THE "GETAWAY GENIUS" ISN'T EXACTLY THE SUICIDAL TYPE--HE WOULDN'T HAVE CRASHED HEAD-ON INTO YOU WITHOUT TRYING TO YEER!

AND JUST AS OBVIOUSLY, THIS VAN WAS PRE-SET ON AN AUTOMATED COURSE--BEFORE IT LEFT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!
WHICH MEANS REYNOLDS PLANNED THIS CAPER WITH A BUILT-IN GETAWAY--EXPECTING HE'D BE WATCHED!
NOW IF I CAN FIND...

--YUP! A SLIDING FLOOR-HATCH!
WHILE IT LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE LOADING THE TRUCK--THEY WERE ACTUALLY USING IT AS A PASS-THROUGH!
PROBABLY TO AN OPEN MANHOLE BELOW THIS TRICK-EXIT!
5

LATER, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
MY HUNCH CHECKED OUT, SIR! APPARENTLY THE "GETAWAY GENIUS" SET UP AN UNDERGROUND "BUCKET-BRIGADE" SYSTEM...
...AND HIS MOB PASSED THE LOOT HAND-TO-HAND TO ANOTHER MANHOLE EXIT, WHERE THEY TOOK OFF IN A STANDBY VEHICLE!
BLAST IT, BATMAN! CAN'T WE EVER BE ONE JUMP AHEAD OF HIM?

I AIM TO BE, COMMISSIONER-- NOW THAT I KNOW WHOM I'M DEALING WITH AND RECOGNIZE HIS M.O.*!
WHICH IS-- FOR EVERY CAPER REYNOLDS PULLS, THE ESCAPE-SCHEME IS PLANNED FIRST!
*METHOD OF OPERATION -- EDITOR.

SO THE INSTANT I SPOT A ROBBERY-IN-PROGRESS--
--I START TO OUTGUESS HIM ON GETAWAY POSSIBILITIES...
...AND GET TWO JUMPS AHEAD OF HIM!

NIGHTS LATER, THE BATMAN'S OPPORTUNITY TO PIT WITS WITH HIS UNCANNY ADVERSARY COMES, WHEN...
THAT LIT WINDOW! COULD BE ANYBODY'S BREAK-IN...
...BUT THAT HANDY PAINTING-SCAFFOLD, HUNG OUTSIDE, PROVES IT ISN'T!

A TYPICAL "GETAWAY GENIUS TRADEMARK"... AN ESCAPE ROUTE RIGGED IN ADVANCE!
A PRETTY OBVIOUS ONE AT THAT... BUT EVEN A "GENIUS" CAN SLIP UP!

AJAX WAREHOUSE
AND THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN COUNTING ON... ONE LITTLE SLIP!
SO FIRST, I TIE HIM UP IN KNOTS...
...BY HOISTING THE SCAFFOLD ABOVE REACH!
6

NOW TO SEAL OFF HIS ONE REMAINING EXIT! THIS IS WHERE THEY CAME IN, ALL RIGHT...
...LOCK IS BROKEN!

NEXT, THE ELEVATOR... AND THE SQUEEZE-PLAY! I'LL CATCH 'EM FLATFOOTED...!
THEY'LL MAKE THEIR MOVE FOR THE WINDOW, AND THEN-- SQUINCH!

MOMENTS LATER...
STILL WORKING ON THE SAFE...TAKING IT NICE AND EASY!
NOT FIGURING I'VE GOT THEM CORNERED AND OUTGUESSED!

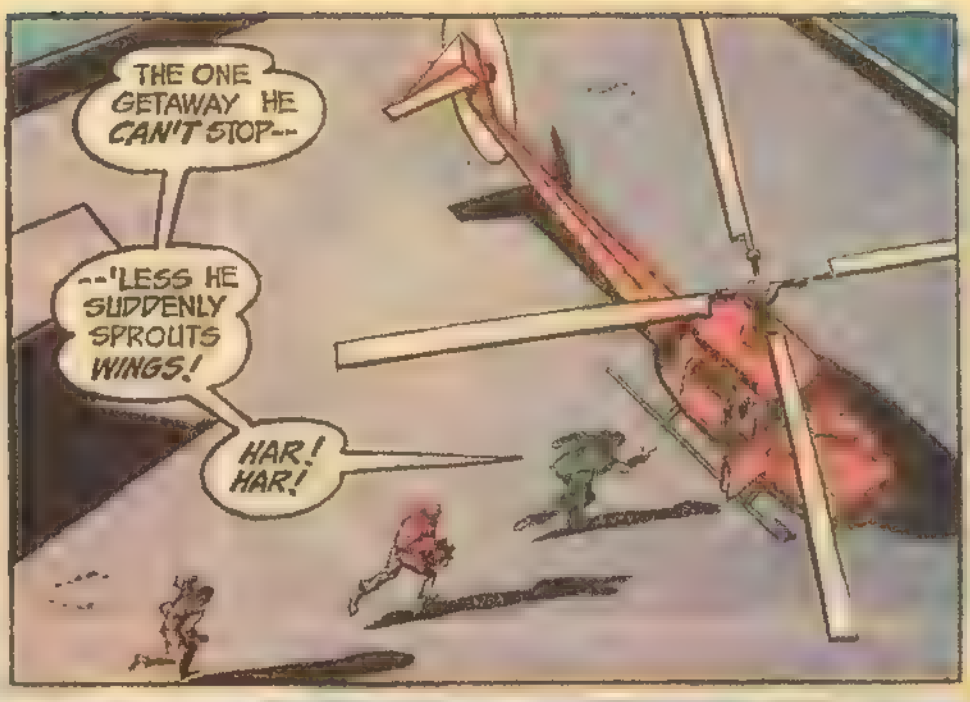
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON THE "GETAWAY GENIUS" FACE WHEN I BUST IN!

BUT IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM...
HAW! I CAN JUST SEE THE EGG ON BATMAN'S PUSS WHEN HE BUSTS IN!
...IF WE'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE HIM STUMBLE ON OUR SET-UP!

THIS IS A PUZZLER! WHAT HAS THE BATMAN BEEN SUCKERED INTO?...
FREEZE, REYNOLDS! THERE'S NO WAY...
...OUT--?!

NO ONE HERE! JUST A...
...MOVIE-PROJECTOR!?
THAT SLINKING RAT DECOYED ME--SET ME UP LIKE AN AMATEUR!
I'VE BEEN--JOBBED!
SLAM!
WHILE, WITH THE GLOATING GENIUS OF THE GETAWAY...
HEH! NO BETTER WAY OF ESCAPIN' FROM A CAPER--
--THAN NOT BEING THERE WHEN THE LAW MOVES IN!
LIKE I TOLD YOU GUYS--JUST STICK WITH ROY REYNOLDS AN' YOU'LL NEVER BE CAUGHT!
NOW, MOVE IT--'FORE SOME NOSY COP ACCIDENTALLY SPOTS THE ACTION!
G-GUH--THE BATMAN?! HERE...?!
JUST OUR CRUMMY ODDS! WE'RE STUCK WITH THE BATMAN...
...AN' PROBABLY SOME NO-ACCOUNT FUZZ FELL FOR OUR OTHER SET-UP!

BUT LEAVE IT TO THE BATTERY DEMON TO HAVE A STAND-BY CONTINGENCY SET NO MATTER WHO SURPRISES HIM!...
PLAN NUMBER TWO! DESIGNED 'SPECIALLY TO STYMIE THE BATMAN!
UP ON THE ROOF--- FAST!


THE ONE GETAWAY HE CAN'T STOP--
--'LESS HE SUDDENLY SPROUTS WINGS!
HAR! HAR!

SUDDENLY-- FROM THE OPPOSITE ROOF--A BATLIKE FIGURE LAUNCHES ITSELF OUT INTO THIN AIR!...
:SKREEK!:

DIG HIM! HE'S REALLY "BATS"! HE THINKS HE CAN FLY!
HE'LL NEVER BRIDGE THAT GAP!

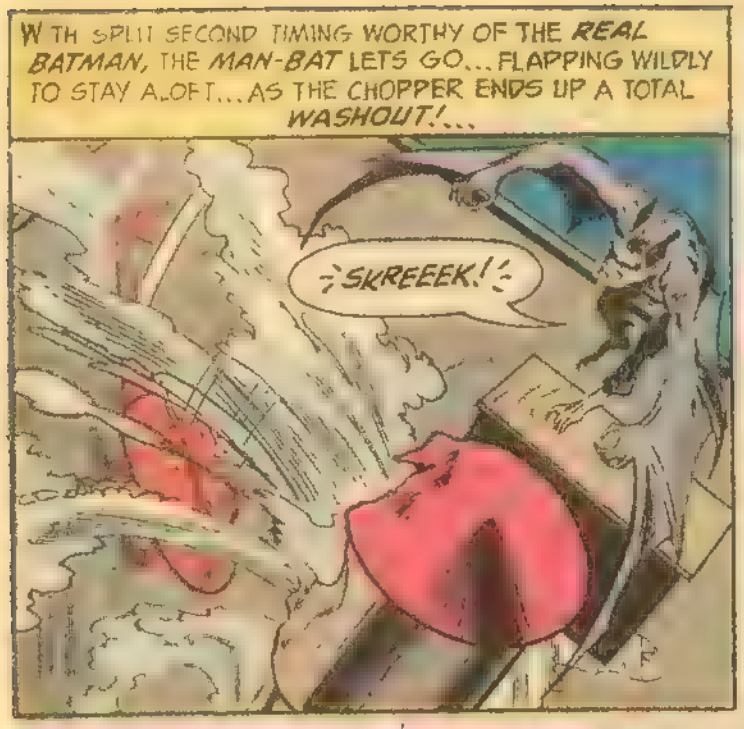
DOWN HE GOES... WITHOUT MY LIFTIN' A FINGER TO DUMP HIM!
R-ROY-- HE AIN'T FALLIN'! H-HE'S...

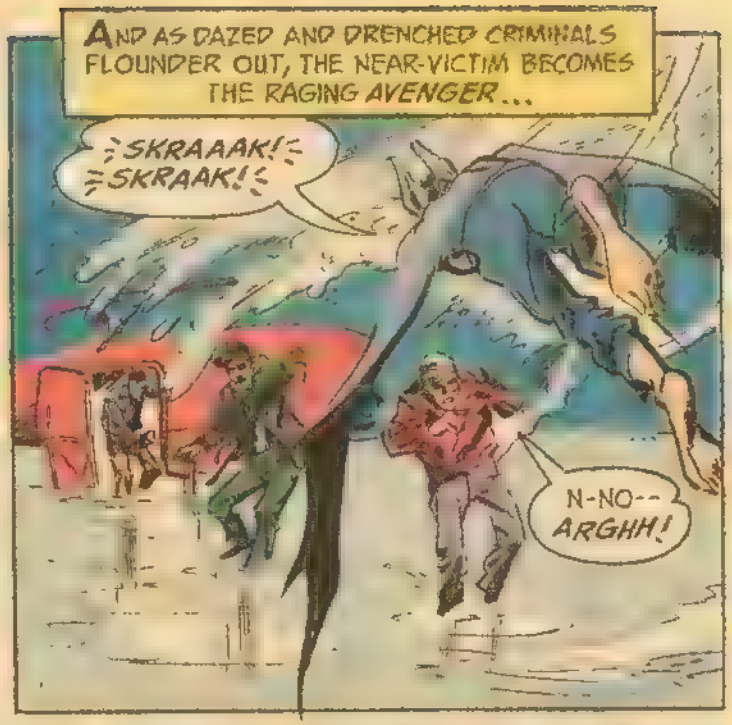
oRUNG!
:SKREEEK!:

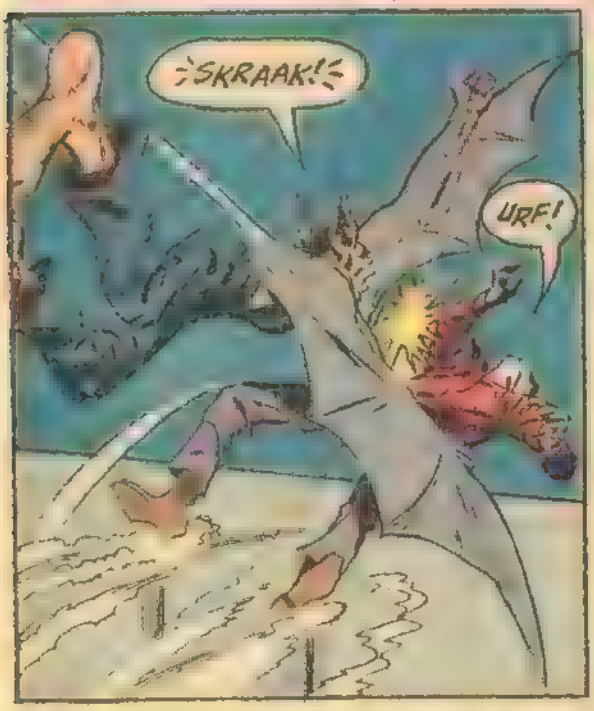
TH-THOSE ARE WINGS, ROY--REAL WINGS!
:SKREEEK!:
G-GAH! TH-THEN THAT AIN'T NO BATMAN-- IT'S A MAN-BAT!
MAN-BAT!--THAT EERIE MUTATION OF NIGHT-CREATURE AND HUMAN...HAS RETURNED TO GOTHAM...
AT LAST I KNOW HOW TO CONTROL MY BAT-SERUM!
NEVER AGAIN WILL IT CONTROL ME!
INSTEAD IT WILL SERVE ME AS A CRIME-FIGHTER...RIVALED ONLY BY THE MIGHTY BATMAN HIMSELF!
MY BAT-LIKE ULTRA-SENSITIVE HEARING ENABLED ME TO TRACK DOWN THIS ELUSIVE GANG...
...BY PICKING UP THE FAINT SOUNDS OF SAFE-COMBINATION TUMBLERS FALLING INTO PLACE...FROM A MILE AWAY!
AND NOW, MY POWER OF FLIGHT WILL BE THEIR DOWNFALL!
TAKE 'ER DOWN--AND LAND!
:SKREEEK!:
W-WHAT WE DO NOW, ROY?
Y-YEAH, FIGURE US A WAY OUTA THIS, "GENIUS"!
SHUT UP-- LEMME THINK!
YOU DONE ENOUGH THINKIN' TO GET US INTO THIS BIND!
YOU AN' YOUR CRAZY IDEAS ABOUT NOT SHOOTIN' OUR WAY OUT!
10

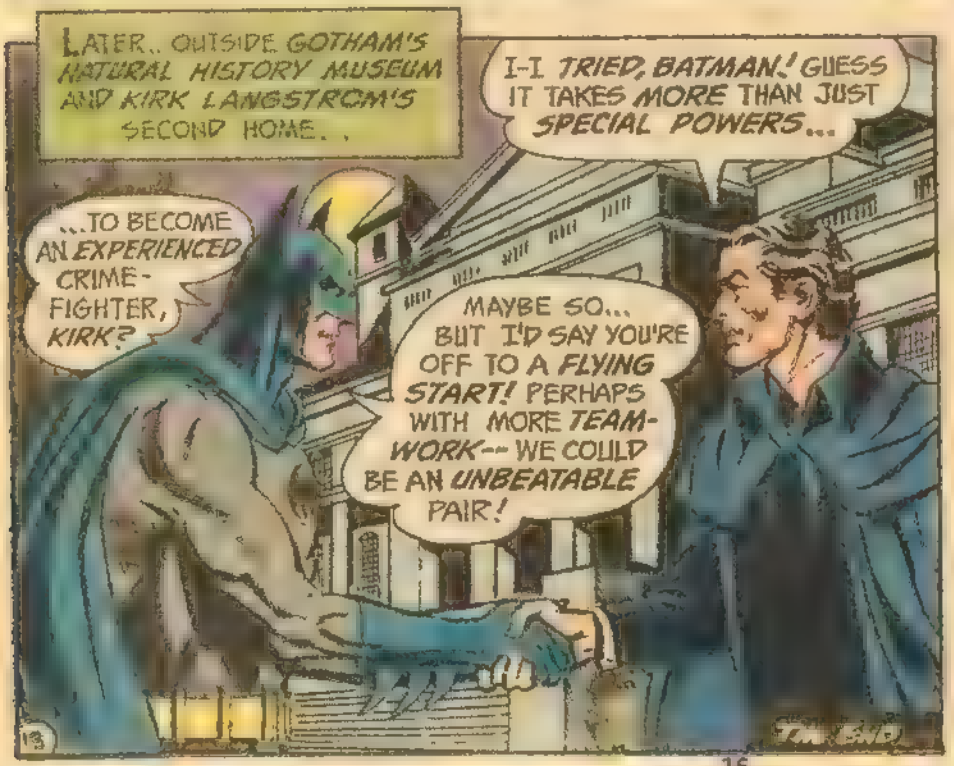
MAYBE YOU GOT A BETTER WAY, BIG-BRAIN ROY--BUT I AIN'T WAITIN' FOR IT!
:'SKREEEK!:-
H-HE'S GOING TO SHOOT ME--POINT-BLANK!
WHAT WOULD THE BATMAN DO IN A SPOT LIKE THIS?!
A DILEMMA THAT IS TAKEN OUT OF THE MAN-BAT'S HANDS, WHEN...
HEY! WHAT'SA IDEA, ROY? Y'MADE ME--MISS!
POW!
LIKE I ALWAYS TOLD YUH, PUNK--NOBODY'S EVER GETTIN' ME HUNG ON A COP-KILLIN' RAP!
OR WHATEVER THAT THING IS!
BUT THE GUN-BLAST HAS REVERBERATED THROUGH SILENT CANYONS OF THE SLEEPING CITY -WHERE...
A PISTOL-SHOT--FROM UP THERE!
MUST BE WHERE I'VE BEEN HEARING THAT CHOPPER CHATTER!
AND THEN, FOR ONE FLEETING INSTANT BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS BEHIND TOWERING BUILDINGS..
THERE IT IS!
BUT WHAT'S THAT... CLINGING TO IT...
... MAN-BAT?!
GOTTA TRY KEEPING 'EM IN SIGHT TILL I DOPE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON UPSTAIRS!
ABOVE, STUBBORNLY MAINTAINING A VIRTUAL DEATH-GRIP ON THE FUGITIVE COPTER...
OKAY--SURE..
:'SKREEEK!:-
... I'LL TAKE 'ER DOWN!
ONCE MORE, CREEP--TAKE 'ER DOWN! OR...
11

YE-AH, GONNA SET DOWN...
...AND LET YOU OFF...
...SUDDEN AND HARD!
:SKREE--EEEK?!:
GOING TO SCRAPE ME OFF AGAINST THAT WATER TOWER!
AND IF I LET GO... I LOSE THEM!
FROM THE GROUND, KEEN EYES QUICKLY TAKE IN THE IMPENDING DISASTER...
...AND I'M POWERLESS TO PREVENT IT!
BUT A DESPERATE MAN-BAT SUMMONS UP ALL HIS MENTAL RESOURCES TO THINK LIKE HIS IDEAL, THE BATMAN!...
MUST UTILIZE THE AERODYNAMIC LAWS REAL BATS FUNCTION BY!
IF I FLAP ONE WING, GIVING EXTRA LIFT ON ONE SIDE...THROWING THE COPTER OFF BALANCE...
...IT'LL SIDE-SLIP IN!
KARAASH!
:SKREEEK!:
12


WITH SPLIT SECOND TIMING WORTHY OF THE REAL BATMAN, THE MAN-BAT LETS GO... FLAPPING WILDLY TO STAY ALOFT... AS THE CHOPPER ENDS UP A TOTAL WASHOUT!...
SKREEEK!






LATER.. OUTSIDE GOTHAM'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND KIRK LANGSTROM'S SECOND HOME..
I-I TRIED, BATMAN! GUESS IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST SPECIAL POWERS...
...TO BECOME AN EXPERIENCED CRIME-FIGHTER, KIRK?
MAYBE SO... BUT I'D SAY YOU'RE OFF TO A FLYING START! PERHAPS WITH MORE TEAM-WORK-- WE COULD BE AN UNBEATABLE PAIR!
THE END

HEAVY! COULD THIS BE THE BEGINNING OF AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN TWO DREAD CREATURES OF THE NIGHT... A WINNING COMBO NO CRIMINAL COULD WITHSTAND?

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THAT MAN-BAT! THERE'S ONE GUY WHO'LL NEVER NEED A COSTUME FOR HALLOWEEN! SPEAKING OF WHICH... IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN... THE SEASON OF BATS AND WITCHES! AND THIS BRINGS ME TO MY NEXT STORY... A MURDER... BY A WITCH... THAT'S THE THEME OF THIS TALE FROM THE FABULOUS FORTIES!
BATMAN
WITH Robin
THE BOY WONDER
BATMAN, EERIE NEMESIS OF CRIME, AND HIS YOUNG DAREDEVIL AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, FIND THEMSELVES STALKING THE TRAIL OF A STRANGE AND UNCANNY FIGURE WHOSE CRIMINAL EXPLOITS ARE A MYSTERY... WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE IS A MYSTERY... YET IT IS THESE TWO, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, WHO ARE ABLE TO SOLVE THIS ENIGMA AND BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE STRANGE CASE OF.... "THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM!"
OUR STORY OPENS ONE WILD, RAINY NIGHT LIGHTNING FLASHES THROUGH THE HEAVENS, THUNDER ROLLS IN GREAT WAVES. IN A ROOM, A MAN SITS WRITING AT HIS DESK....
MY BOOK IS ALMOST FINISHED NOW!
PG. 4
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THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM

A BENT SHAPE CREEPS SILENTLY TOWARD THE MAN.
THERE IS A DULL THUD AND THE MAN SLUMPS FORWARD...
THIS IS WHAT I WANT!
SUDDENLY, THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN..... THE BUTLER BLUNDERS UPON THE SCENE
MR DORNE, I... WHA..?
WITH A LOUD CRY, THE BUTLER HURLS HIMSELF UPON THE INTRUDER....
HELP! MURDER!
THERE IS A FURIOUS STRUGGLE, BUT THE STAFF DESCENDS AGAIN AND THE BUTLER LIES MOANING ON THE FLOOR!
THE HIDEOUS FIGURE VANISHES IN THE PROTECTING DARKNESS, LEAVING BUT A SINGLE CLUE PART OF A SHEET OF PAPER WHICH HAD BEEN TORN OFF IN THE STRUGGLE..
PAINFULLY, THE BUTLER DRAGS HIMSELF TO THE TELEPHONE
GET ME THE POLICE! MY MASTER- ERIK DORNE- HAS BEEN MURDERED!
IN HEADQUARTERS, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON CHATS WITH HIS OLD FRIEND, BRUCE WAYNE, A WEALTHY SOCIETY PLAYBOY.
TELL ME, BRUCE, IS GOING OUT TO NIGHTCLUBS THE ONLY THING YOU'RE INTERESTED IN?
OH NO I LIKE TO PLAY A LITTLE POLO NOW AND THEN!
A CALL JUST CAME IN, COMMISSIONER- -A MURDER!

IT'S ERIK DORNE, SIR. HIS BUTLER WAS ATTACKED, TOO!
ERIK DORNE, THE MYSTERY STORY WRITER? WHERE'S MY COAT?
MYSTERY STORY WRITER MYSTERIOUSLY MURDERED? SOUNDS MELODRAMATIC —THINK I'LL TOODLE ALONG WITH YOU!
A POLICE CAR SPEEDS THEM TO THE SCENE.....
.....YOU MEAN TO SAY A PERSON THAT LOOKED LIKE A WITCH ATTACKED YOU!
YES- LIKE A WITCH- VERY UGLY- TOOK MANUSCRIPT- AAAH!
FAINTED! HE'S IN A BAD WAY! I'M AFRAID HE WON'T STAND ANY MORE QUESTIONING FOR A TIME!
FOUND THIS ON THE FLOOR, SIR! LOOKS LIKE PART OF A MANUSCRIPT!
THE PAPER.....
This story is about a witch- a witch that lives. This is a true story. It is the story of
THIS - THIS IS INCREDIBLE! FROM ALL APPEARANCES IT LOOKS LIKE THE WITCH OF THE MYSTERY STORY KILLED DORNE! IT'S FANTASTIC.
WELL, DORNE SAYS THE WITCH REALLY LIVES. NOW YOU HAVE PROOF OF IT!
DID I HEAR SOMEONE MENTION- A WITCH?
WHO ARE YOU?
JOSHUA GRIMM- AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS ON WITCHCRAFT AND DEMONOLOGY! THE POLICEMAN OUTSIDE TELLS ME ERIK DORNE WAS MURDERED! TCH-TCH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHEN I SAW ERIK TODAY AT THE PUBLISHING OFFICE, HE ASKED ME, "WHEN IS A WITCH NOT A WITCH?"- AND THEN SMIRKED AND WALKED AWAY! I CAME DOWN TO FIND OUT WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT! MY WORK, YOU KNOW!

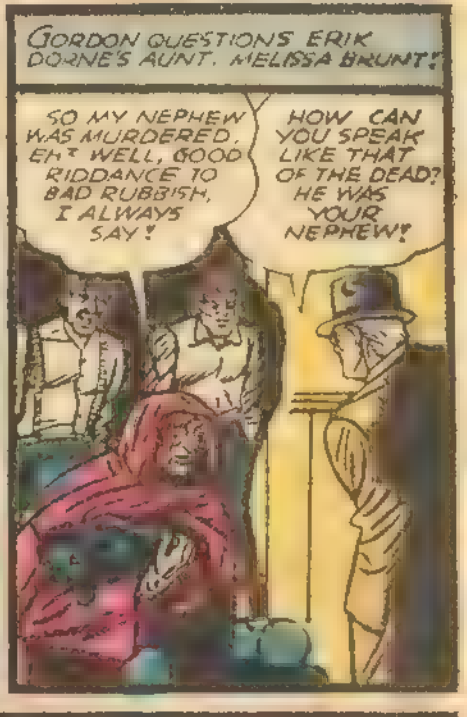
THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM

WHY-WHAT IS THIS?.... ERIK..... WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE'S BEEN MURDERED! WHO ARE YOU?
THIS IS MR. WRIGHT, THE MAN WHO PUBLISHES DORNE'S BOOKS!

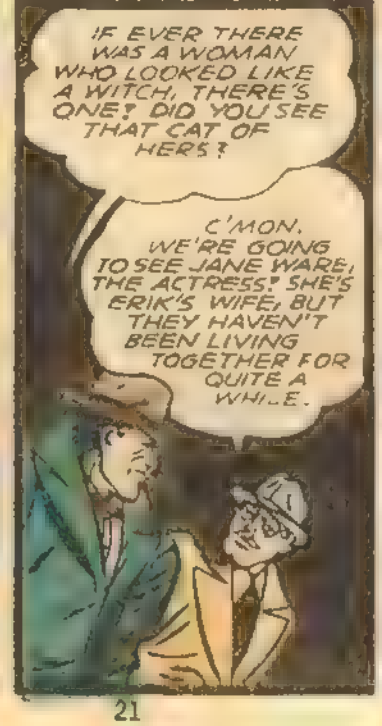
AND WHAT MADE YOU COME AROUND THIS PARTICULAR NIGHT?
ERIK DID SAID HE HAD A NEW MYSTERY NOVEL FOR ME! I CAME TO PICK UP THE MANUSCRIPT!

LOOKS LIKE THE MURDERER BEAT YOU TO IT! THE MANUSCRIPT IS GONE!
GONE?? WHY, THAT'S TERRIBLE-TERRIBLE! BUT WHY SHOULD ANYONE WANT TO STEAL IT?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO FIND OUT!

COME ALONG, BRUCE. ERIK DORNE WASN'T EXACTLY A LOVABLE FELLOW SO I'M GOING TO QUESTION SOME SUSPECTS.
SUSPECTS! SOUNDS JUST LIKE A MYSTERY STORY!

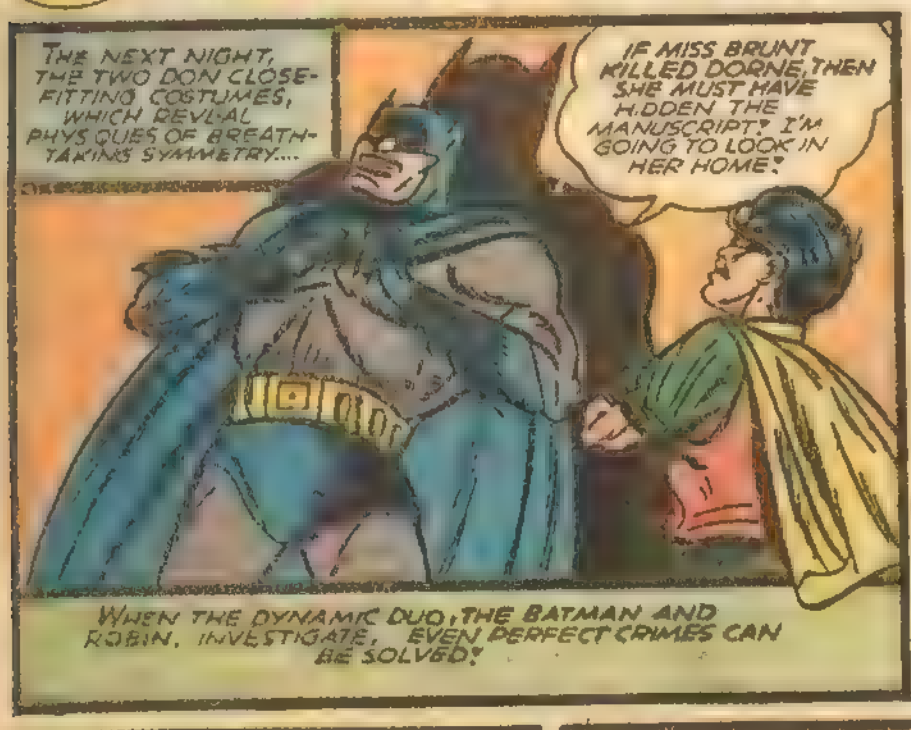

GORDON QUESTIONS ERIK DORNE'S AUNT, MELISSA BRUNT:
SO MY NEPHEW WAS MURDERED, EH? WELL, GOOD RIDDANCE TO BAD RUBBISH, I ALWAYS SAY!
HOW CAN YOU SPEAK LIKE THAT OF THE DEAD? HE WAS YOUR NEPHEW!

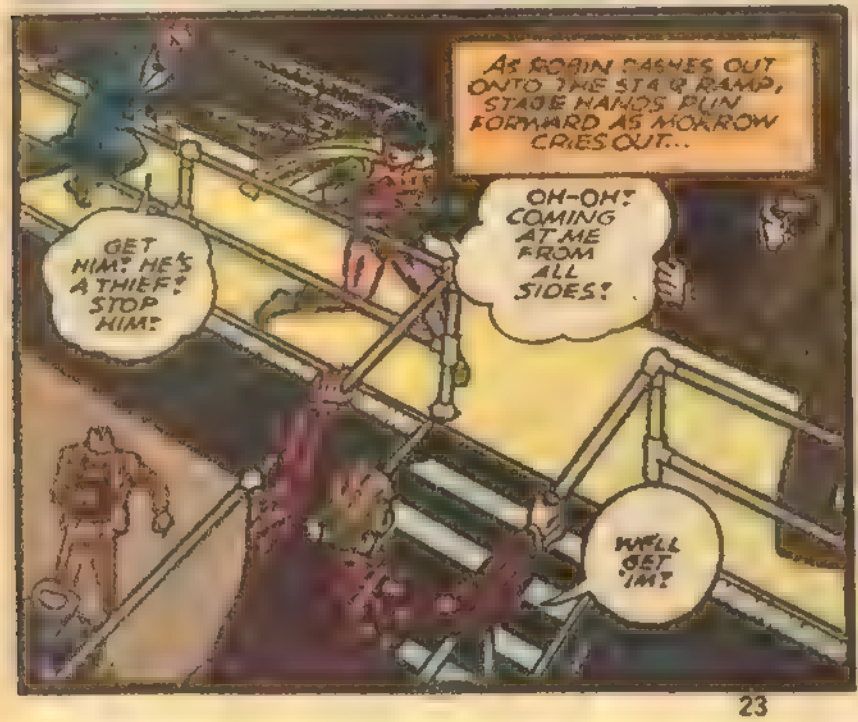
HE WAS A NO-GOOD NEPHEW! WHILE WE SCRIMPED, HE SQUANDERED MONEY WITHOUT GIVING A THOUGHT TO ME OR HIS TWO COUSINS HERE!
YOU BETTER GO NOW! SHE GETS VERY EXCITED WHEN ERIK IS MENTIONED!

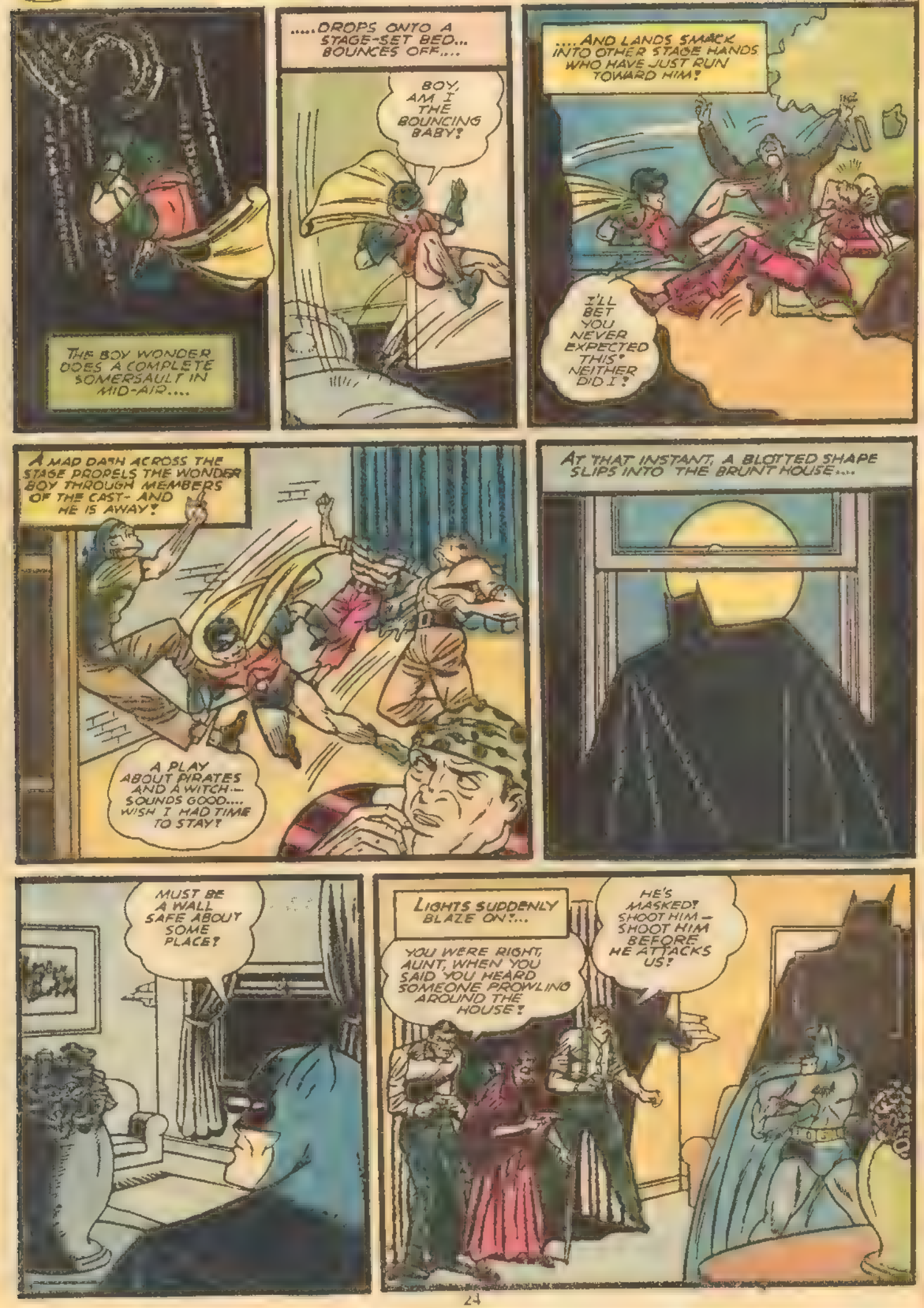

IF EVER THERE WAS A WOMAN WHO LOOKED LIKE A WITCH, THERE'S ONE! DID YOU SEE THAT CAT OF HERS?
C'MON. WE'RE GOING TO SEE JANE WARE, THE ACTRESS! SHE'S ERIK'S WIFE, BUT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR QUITE A WHILE.

WITH A LAUGH, THE WITCH PEELS OFF HER "FACE"....
THAT'S MAKEUP! MISS WARE PLAYS A WITCH IN THE PLAY SHE IS STARRING IN.
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO TELL ME COMMISSIONER?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT, BUT YOUR HUSBAND— HE'S DEAD!
SO HE'S DEAD! THAT MEANS YOU'RE FREE AT LAST!
BUT YOU ARE OF THE POLICE! DOES THAT MEAN....?
YES! MURDER! AND PERHAPS, NOW, YOU CAN EXPLAIN THIS GENTLEMAN'S REMARK!
I WANTED A DIVORCE FROM ERIK SO I COULD MARRY HARVEY MORROW. HERE—
—BUT HE WOULDN'T GIVE IT TO HER! NOW WE CAN GET MARRIED AT LAST!
NOT A BAD EXCUSE FOR A MURDER, EH, MR. MORROW?
WHEN BRUCE AND GORDON LEAVE....
YOU KNOW, JANE WARE COULD HAVE SNEAKED OFF DURING STAGE INTERMISSION, KILLED DORNE, AND GOT BACK IN TIME TO CONTINUE HER ROLE.
PERHAPS SHE, IN HER MAKEUP, WAS THE WITCH THE BUTLER SAW.
LOOK: DORNE'S STORY CONCERNS A REAL WITCH— JOSHUA GRIMM WRITES BOOKS ABOUT WITCHES— WRIGHT PUBLISHES THEM— MISS BRUNT LOOKS LIKE A WITCH, AND JANE WARE'S STAGE ROLE IS THAT OF A WITCH! LORD!
THE TROUBLE IS YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH WITCH IS WHICH!
DORNE WAS KILLED BECAUSE HIS STORY WAS GOING TO EXPOSE A PERSON WHO WAS A WITCH! THAT'S WHY THE MANUSCRIPT WAS STOLEN!
SOMEONE LIVING TWO SEPARATE LIVES, EH? WELL, COMMISSIONER, IT'S TOO DEEP FOR ME! PARDON ME WHILE I GO HOME AND DREAM ABOUT WITCHES! TA-TA!
UPON REACHING HIS HOME, BRUCE ACQUAINTS HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, WITH THE FACTS OF THE CASE....
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND? LOOKS LIKE HAIR!
IT IS! I PICKED IT UP FROM THE MURDER ROOM FLOOR! IT'S HAIR FROM A WIG— PROBABLY TORN OFF WHEN THE BUTLER STRUGGLED WITH THE WITCH!
I WANT YOU TO GET ME A SAMPLE OF HAIR FROM THE WIG WORN BY JANE WARE IN HER "WITCH" STAGE ROLE.
I GET IT— IF THE HAIRS MATCH, THAT MEANS JANE WARE IS GUILTY!

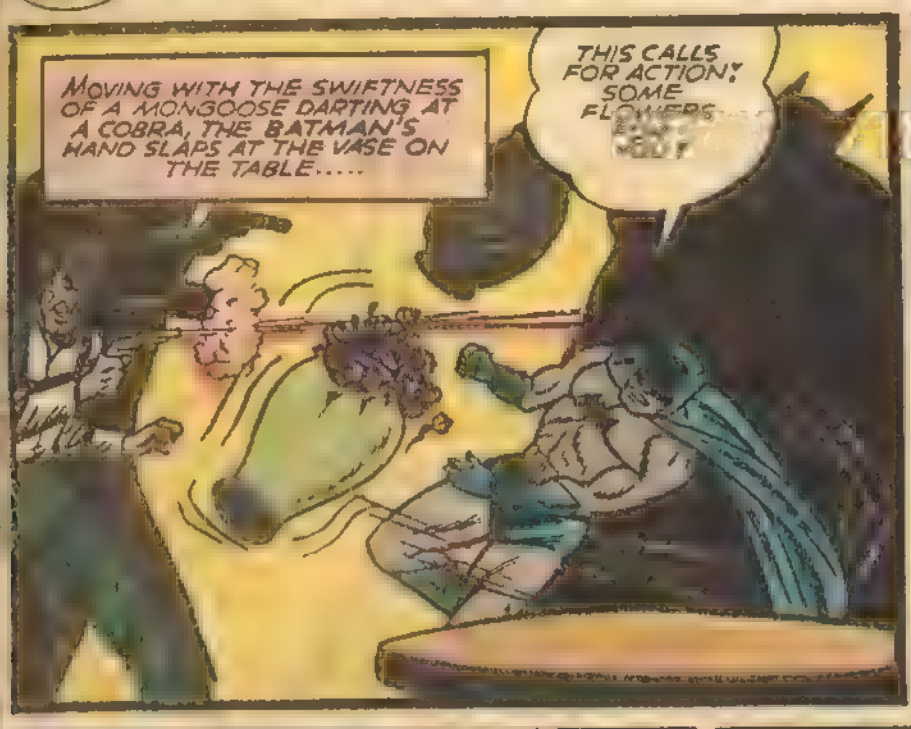
THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM

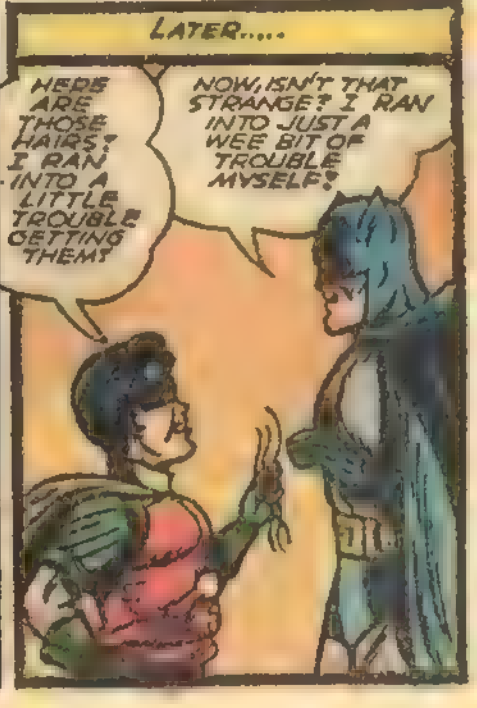

THE NEXT NIGHT, THE TWO DON CLOSE-FITTING COSTUMES, WHICH REVEAL PHYSIQUES OF BREATH-TAKING SYMMETRY....
IF MISS BRUNT KILLED DORNE, THEN SHE MUST HAVE HIDDEN THE MANUSCRIPT! I'M GOING TO LOOK IN HER HOME!
WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, INVESTIGATE, EVEN PERFECT CRIMES CAN BE SOLVED!


AS ROBIN DASHES OUT ONTO THE STAGE RAMP, STAGE HANDS RUN FORWARD AS MORROW CRIES OUT...
GET HIM! HE'S A THIEF! STOP HIM!
OH-OH! COMING AT ME FROM ALL SIDES!
WE'LL GET 'IM!


THE BOY WONDER DOES A COMPLETE SOMERSAULT IN MID-AIR....
.....DROPS ONTO A STAGE-SET BED... BOUNCES OFF....
BOY, AM I THE BOUNCING BABY!
....AND LANDS SMACK INTO OTHER STAGE HANDS WHO HAVE JUST RUN TOWARD HIM!
I'LL BET YOU NEVER EXPECTED THIS! NEITHER DID I!
A MAD DASH ACROSS THE STAGE PROPELS THE WONDER BOY THROUGH MEMBERS OF THE CAST- AND HE IS AWAY!
A PLAY ABOUT PIRATES AND A WITCH-- SOUNDS GOOD.... WISH I HAD TIME TO STAY!
AT THAT INSTANT, A BLOTTED SHAPE SLIPS INTO THE BRUNT HOUSE....
MUST BE A WALL SAFE ABOUT SOME PLACE!
LIGHTS SUDDENLY BLAZE ON!...
YOU WERE RIGHT, AUNT, WHEN YOU SAID YOU HEARD SOMEONE PROWLING AROUND THE HOUSE!
HE'S MASKED! SHOOT HIM-- SHOOT HIM BEFORE HE ATTACKS US!

THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM

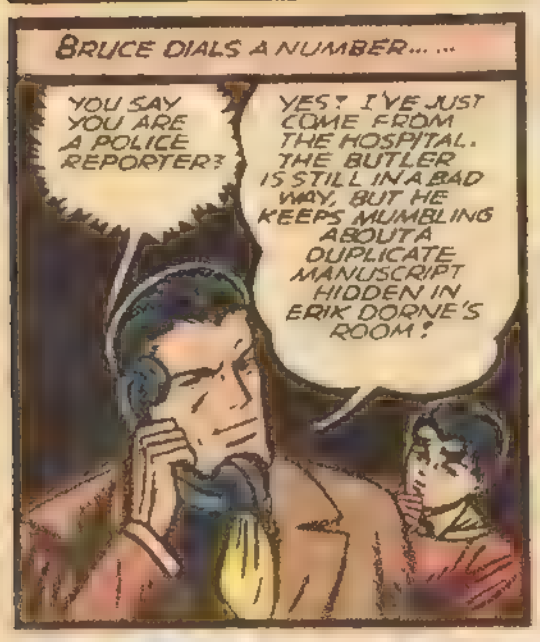

MOVING WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF A MONGOOSE DARTING AT A COBRA, THE BATMAN'S HAND SLAPS AT THE VASE ON THE TABLE.....
THIS CALLS FOR ACTION! SOME FLOWERS BUT WHAT?

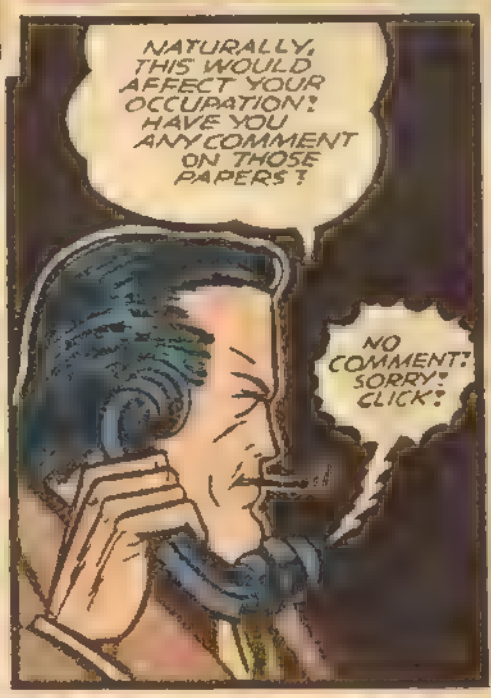

LATER.....
HERE ARE THOSE HAIRS! I RAN INTO A LITTLE TROUBLE GETTING THEM!
NOW, ISN'T THAT STRANGE! I RAN INTO JUST A WEE BIT OF TROUBLE MYSELF!

THE BATMAN PLACES THE DIFFERENT HAIRS UNDER HIS MICROSCOPE FOR COMPARISON.
HMM!
WHAT HAS THE BATMAN DISCOVERED ABOUT THE TWO HAIRS?

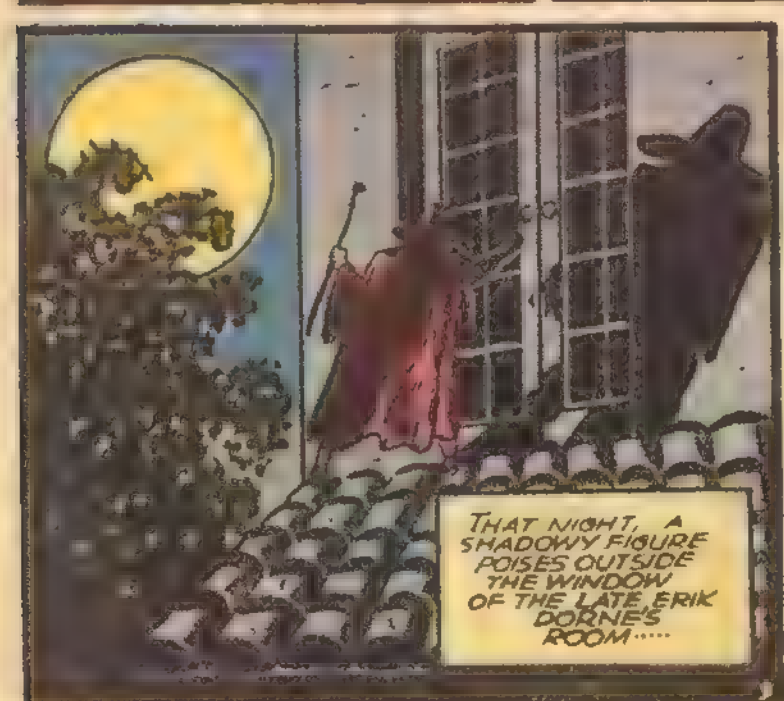
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE MYSTERIOUS WITCH LAUGHS.....
IT WOULD NEVER DO FOR THE POLICE TO READ THIS MANUSCRIPT! NEVER! HEE HEE!

THE NEXT DAY.....
I'VE BEEN THINK NG OVER WHAT EACH SUSPECT SAID, AND I THINK I KNOW NOW WHO IS GUILTY! ...AND I'VE GOT A PLAN TO PROVE IT!


BRUCE DIALS A NUMBER... ...
YOU SAY YOU ARE A POLICE REPORTER?
YES! I'VE JUST COME FROM THE HOSPITAL. THE BUTLER IS STILL IN A BAD WAY, BUT HE KEEPS MUMBLING ABOUT A DUPLICATE MANUSCRIPT HIDDEN IN ERIK DORNE'S ROOM!


NATURALLY, THIS WOULD AFFECT YOUR OCCUPATION! HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THOSE PAPERS?
NO COMMENT! SORRY! CLICK!

I'VE PLANTED THE BAIT! NOW, LETS HOPE OUR PARTY TAKES A NIBBLE AT IT!
WHO DID BRUCE PHONE? WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE WITCH?


THAT NIGHT, A SHADOWY FIGURE POISES OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OF THE LATE ERIK DORNE'S ROOM.....

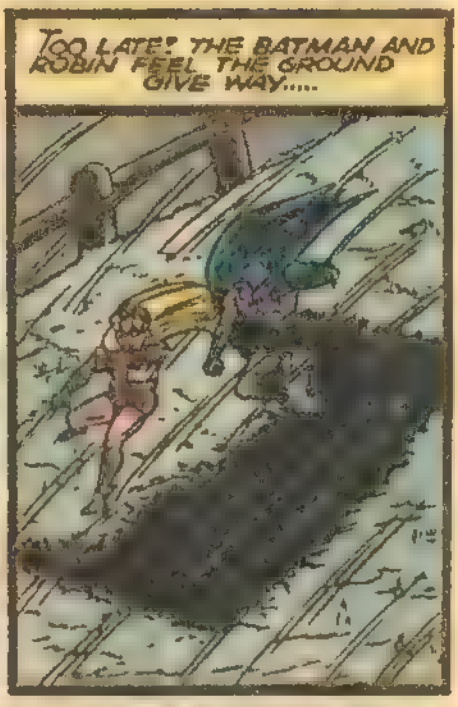
NOISELESSLY, IT GLIDES INTO THE ROOM.... AT THAT MOMENT, THE MOON SLIPS OUT FROM BEHIND DARK CLOUDS AND REVEALS IN ITS LIGHT.....THE WITCH!
THAT HIDDEN MANUSCRIPT MUST BE AROUND SOMEPLACE!

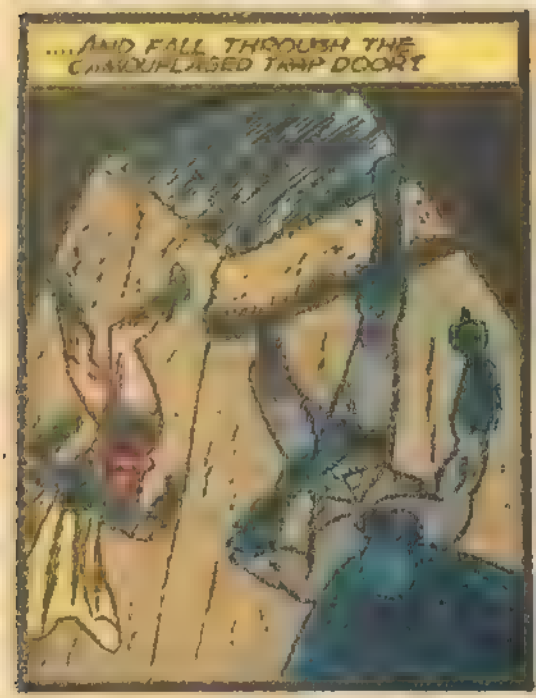
THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM

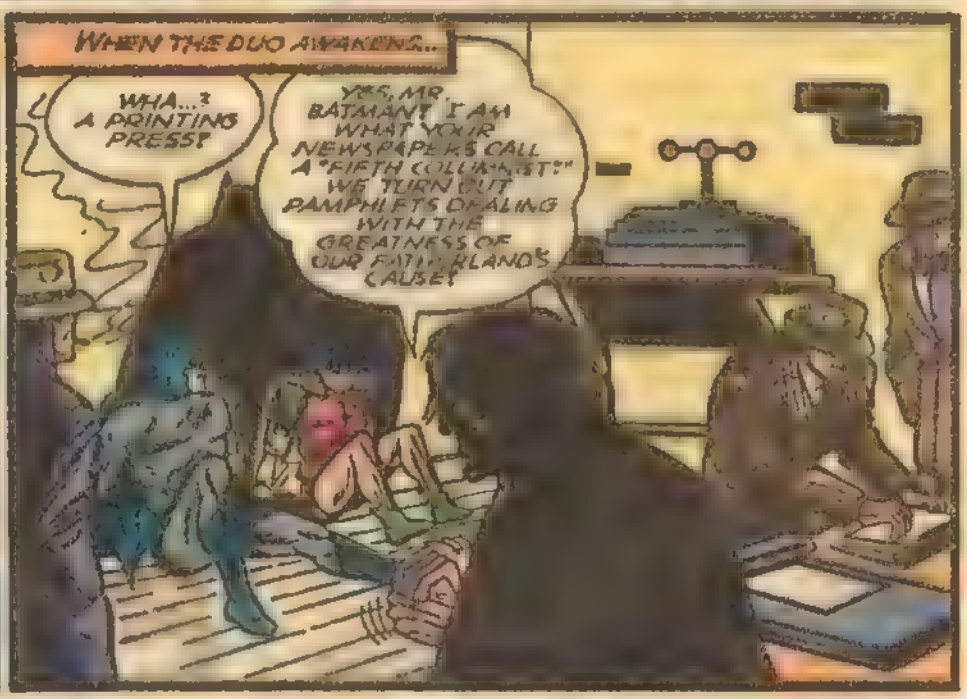
ABRUPTLY, TWO FIGURES LEAP OUT OF DARKENED CORNERS....THE BATMAN AND THE BOY WONDER!
HUH?
GOOD EVENING WITCH!
THEN, ONE OF THOSE UNFORESEEN LITTLE THINGS HAPPENS... THE BATMAN TRIPS OVER A FOOTSTOOL IN HIS PATH...
WHA..?
THE WITCH IS QUICK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE AND WHIRLING SWIFTLY BRINGS THE STAFF DOWN ON ROBIN
NOT SO FAST BOY!
THE WITCH SPRINGS OUT OF THE WINDOW, RACES TOWARD A WAITING CAR, AND SPEEDS AWAY!
THE DYNAMIC DUO PURSUES....
WE'LL HAVE TO BORROW THIS CAR HERE.
LUCKY THAT STAFF ONLY GRAZED ME!
JAGGED STREAKS OF WHITE LIGHTNING LEAP IN THE SKY AS THE MAD CHASE BEGINS.
IF THIS WERE THE BATMOBILE, WE'D BE ON TOP OF THAT CAR IN NO TIME!
THIS IS ONE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CASE I NEVER EXPECTED!
IT IS A WEIRD SCENE AS THE WITCH'S SHRIEKING, INSANE LAUGHTER IS HEARD ABOVE THE STORM'S FURY....
HEE-HEE-HEE-
ON THEY RACE, MILE AFTER MILE... UNTIL....
LOOK! THE WITCH! IS GOING INTO THAT HOUSE!

A BIG, GABLED HOUSE LOOMS SULLEN AGAINST THE GREY BLUR OF THE STORMY SKY....
C'MON!

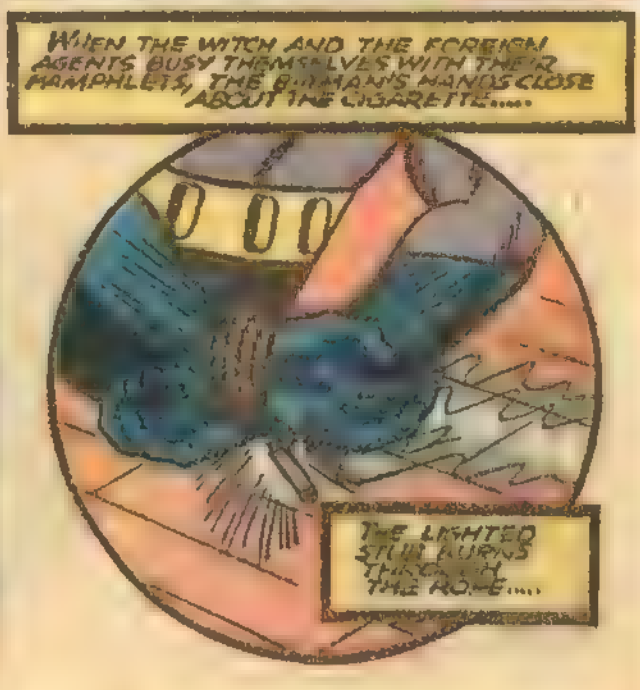
.....BUT AS THE WITCH REACHES THE HOUSE, SHE YANKS HARD AT A ROPE THAT DANGLES FROM A NEARBY TREE.....
MEDDLERS.. ...I'LL TEACH THEM! HEE HEE....


TOO LATE! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FEEL THE GROUND GIVE WAY.....

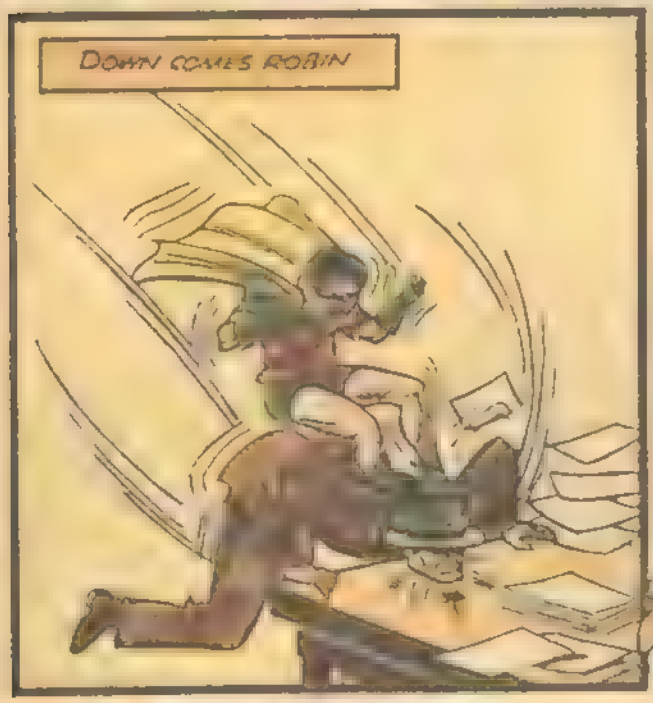

....AND FALL THROUGH THE CAMOUFLAGED TRAP DOOR!

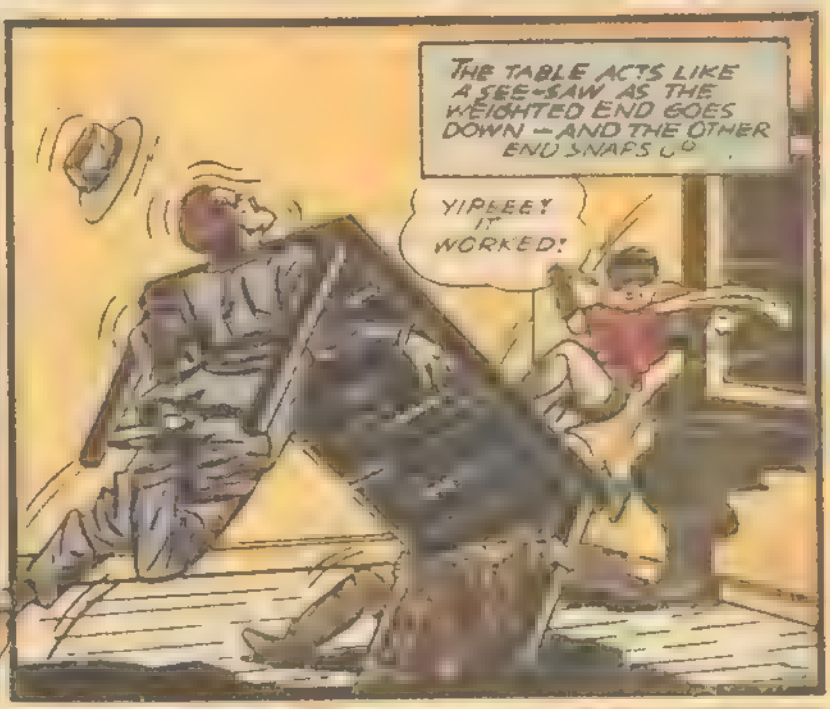

WHEN THE DUO AWAKENS..
WHA...? A PRINTING PRESS!
YES, MR BATMAN! I AM WHAT YOUR NEWSPAPERS CALL A "FIFTH COLUMNIST!" WE TURN OUT PAMPHLETS DEALING WITH THE GREATNESS OF OUR FATH... KLAND'S CAUSE!

SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE, EH? NATURALLY, YOUR USEFULNESS AS A FOREIGN AGENT DEPENDS UPON YOUR IDENTITY BEING KEPT A SECRET—EVEN FROM YOUR OWN MEN—HENCE, THE BIZARRE DISGUISE?
TRUE! THAT'S WHY I KILLED ERIK DORNE! SOMEHOW, HE FOUND OUT MY LITTLE SECRET AND THREATENED TO EXPOSE ME WITH HIS BOOK UNLESS I PAID UP!
BLACKMAIL!
THE BATMAN'S KEEN EYES NOTE A FALLING CIGARETTE!


WHEN THE WITCH AND THE FOREIGN AGENTS BUSY THEMSELVES WITH THEIR PAMPHLETS, THE BATMAN'S HANDS CLOSE ABOUT THE CIGARETTE.....
THE LIGHTED STUB BURNS THROUGH THE ROPE....

THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM





THE WITCH PULLS AT THE STAFF, AND A GLEAMING SWORD FLASHES IN THE LIGHT....
THIS IS YOUR END, BATMAN!
A VARIATION OF THE OLD SWORD-CANE TRICK!
THE BATMAN TUGS AT THE CARPET STRIP AND.....
ANOTHER OLD TRICK TO MATCH IT!
THE WITCH DRAWS A GUN....
AND THE BATMAN AND WITCH LOCK IN A DEATH STRUGGLE...
I AM AFRAID YOUR HAUNTING DAYS ARE OVER!
SUDDENLY.... WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE.....THE WITCH GOES FLYING....
I KNOW IT'S NOT NICE TO FIGHT WITH A LADY, BUT YOU'RE NO LADY!...
THE BATMAN RIPS AWAY THE DISGUISE AND REVEALS..
WRIGHT - THE PUBLISHER - JUST AS YOU SUSPECTED!
WRIGHT, THE PUBLISHER OF BOOKS AND SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE! YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY HERE WHEN YOU MURDERED ERIK DORNE, EH!
YES, THEN I CAME BACK AFTER LEAVING THE DISGUISE IN MY CAR!
WITH THE WITCH, ALIAS WRIGHT, IN CUSTODY, BRUCE AND DICK DISCUSS THE CASE AT HOME...
I SUSPECTED WRIGHT BECAUSE HE SAID DORNE TOLD HIM OF THE MANUSCRIPT, AS THE PUBLISHER, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW ITS CONTENTS! THE OTHERS COULDN'T!
IT WASN'T UNTIL YOU TOLD ME THAT THE HAIR FROM THE WITCH'S WIG AND JANE WRAY'S DIDN'T MATCH THAT I SUSPECTED HIM!
NOW, WHAT SAY TO A MOVIE? THEY'VE GOT "THE WITCH WALKS!"
NO, THANK YOU. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF WITCHES TO DO ME A LIFE-TIME!

THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF "MAC"

HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES!
THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE. I'D SMASH YOUR FACE···ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
WHAT! YOU HERE AGAIN? HERE'S SOMETHING I OWE YOU!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!
HERO OF THE BEACH
GOSH! WHAT A BUILD
HE'S ALREADY FAMOUS FOR IT!

Charles Atlas

Awarded the title of "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

CHARLES ATLAS ON TV

WIN THIS VALUABLE TROPHY

3 FREE GIFTS

If you act now

Let Me PROVE I Can Make YOU A NEW MAN!

ARE you "fed up" with seeing the huskies walk off with the best of everything? Sick and tired of being soft, frail, skinny or flabby — only HALF ALIVE? I know just how you feel. Because I myself was once a puny 97-pound "runt." And I was so ashamed of my scrawny frame that I dreaded being seen in a swim suit.

The Secret of How I Got My Build

Then I discovered a wonderful way to develop my body fast. It worked wonders for me — changed me from the scrawny "runt" I was at 17, into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man." And I can build up YOUR body the very same natural way — without weights, springs or pulleys. Only 15 minutes a day of pleasant practice — in the privacy of your room.

My "Dynamic-Tension" method has already helped thousands of other fellows become real he-men in double quick time. Let it help YOU. Not next month or next year — but Right NOW!

"Dynamic-Tension" Builds Muscles FAST!

If you're like I was, you want a powerful, muscular, well-proportioned build you can be proud of any time, anywhere. You want the "Greek-God" type of physique that women rave about at the beach — the kind that makes other fellows green with envy.

Mail Coupon Now for My 32-Page Illustrated Book

Mailing the coupon can be the turning point in your life. I'll send you a copy of my 32-page illustrated book, "How Dynamic-Tension Makes You a NEW MAN." Tells how and why my method works: shows many pictures proving what it has done for others. Don't delay. Mail coupon NOW. CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 81N, 115 E 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010

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Dear Charles Atlas: Prove the kind of Body I Want

(Check as many as you like)

- Broader Chest and Shoulders
- Ironbard Stomach Muscles
- Tireless Legs
- Slimmer Waist and Legs
- More Energy and Stamina
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- More Weight Solid in the Right Places

I enclose 10c. Please send me a copy of your famous book, "Dynamic-Tension" can make me a new man. Illustrated with photographs, answers to "life" health questions, and valuable chart. Tells me how to get started right away.

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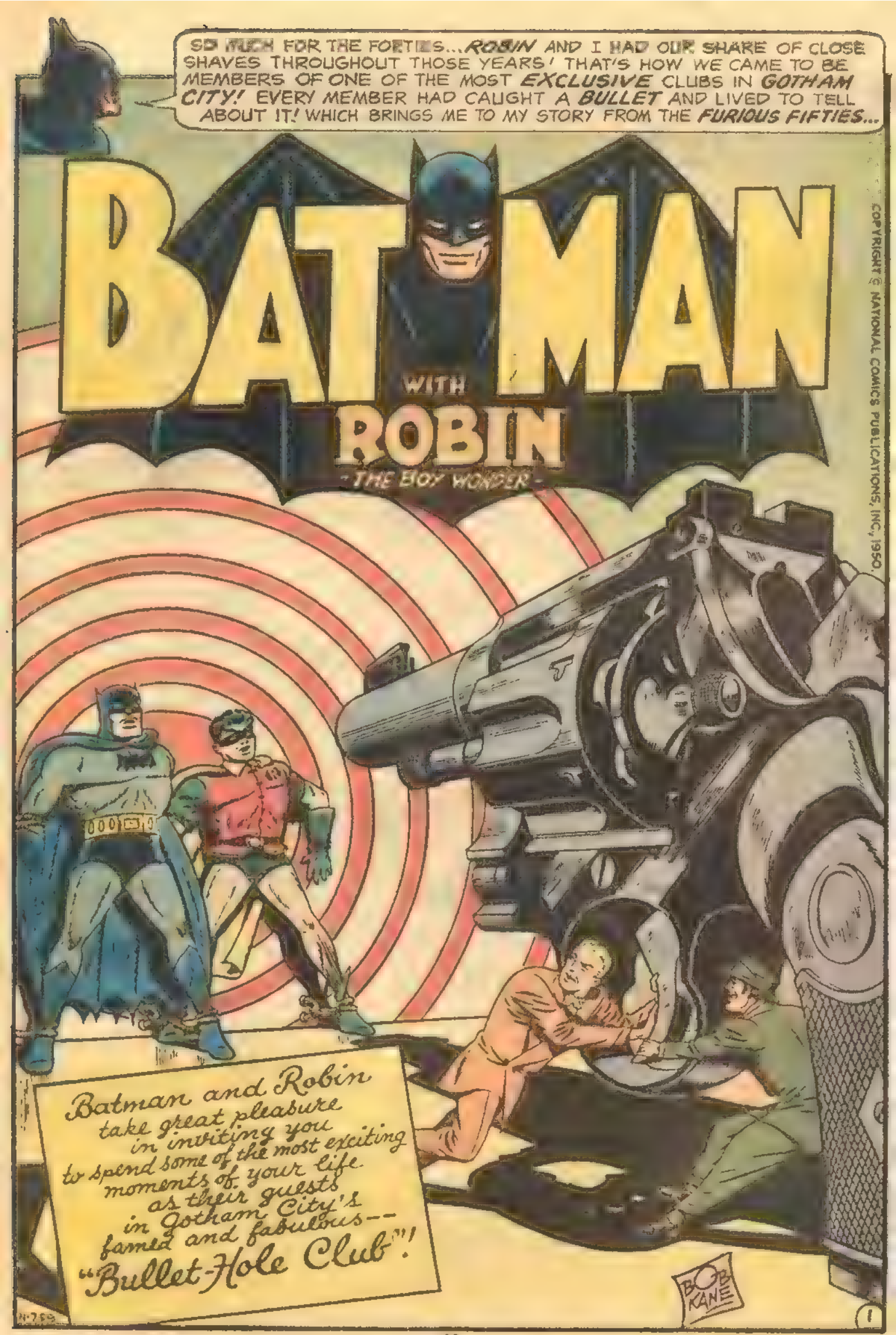
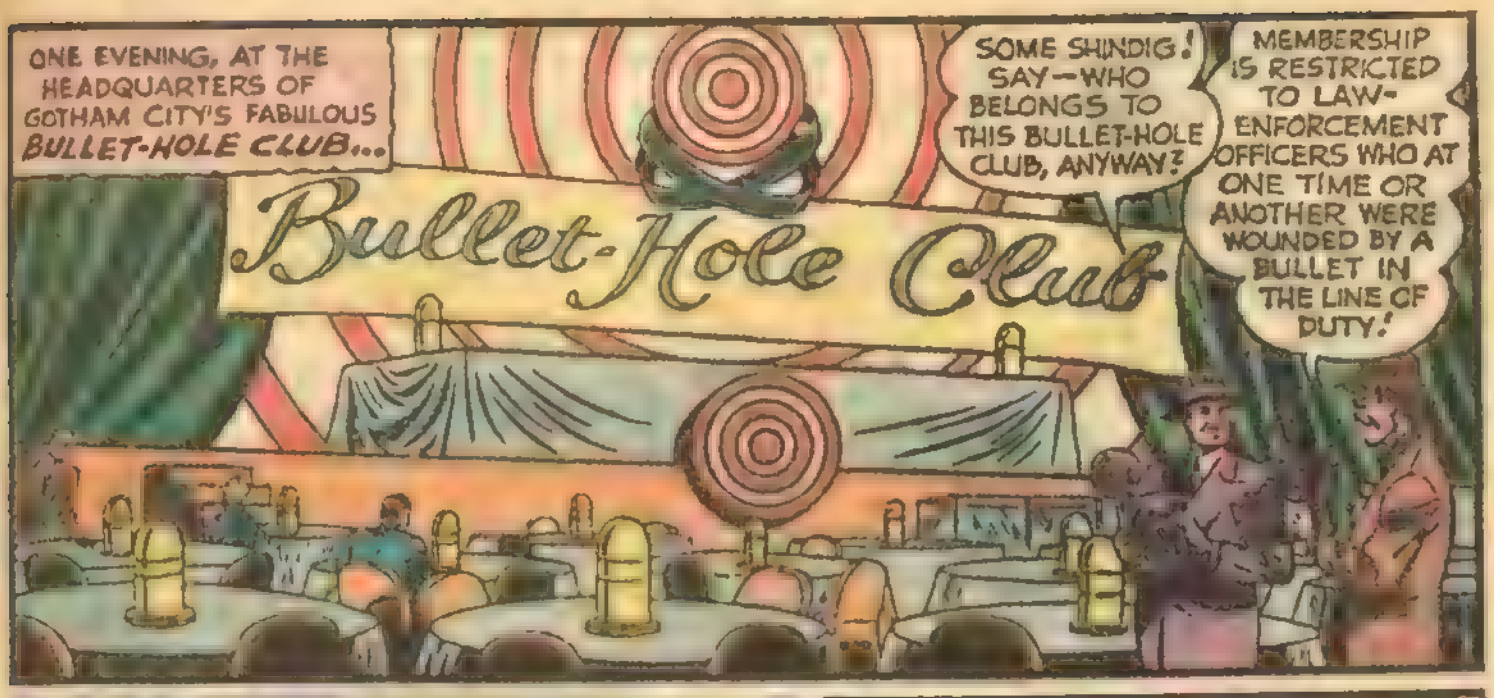
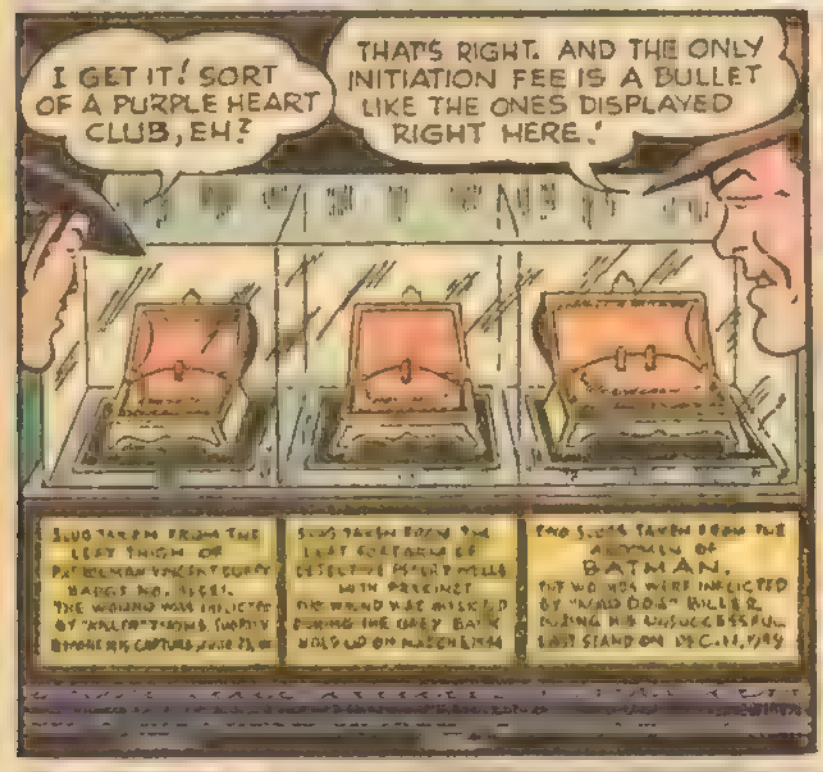
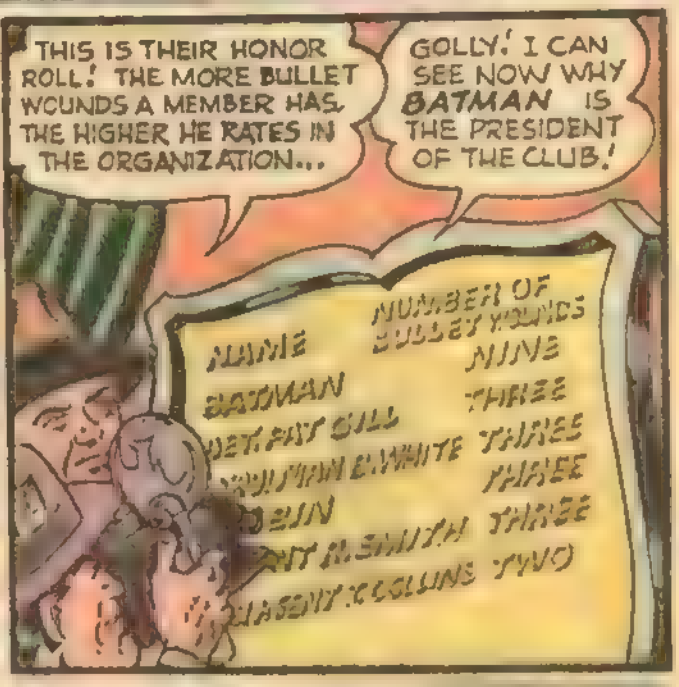
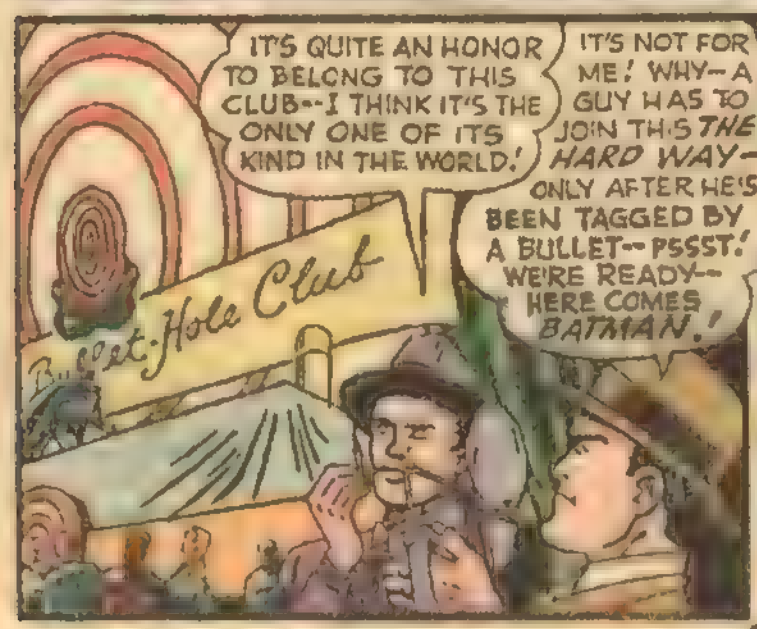

SO MUCH FOR THE FORTIES...ROBIN AND I HAD OUR SHARE OF CLOSE SHAVES THROUGHOUT THOSE YEARS! THAT'S HOW WE CAME TO BE MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE MOST EXCLUSIVE CLUBS IN GOTHAM CITY! EVERY MEMBER HAD CAUGHT A BULLET AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT! WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY STORY FROM THE FURIOUS FIFTIES...
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
"THE BOY WONDER"
COPYRIGHT © NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC., 1950.
Batman and Robin take great pleasure in inviting you to spend some of the most exciting moments of your life as their guests in Gotham City's famed and fabulous--"Bullet-Hole Club"!
BOB KANE
1

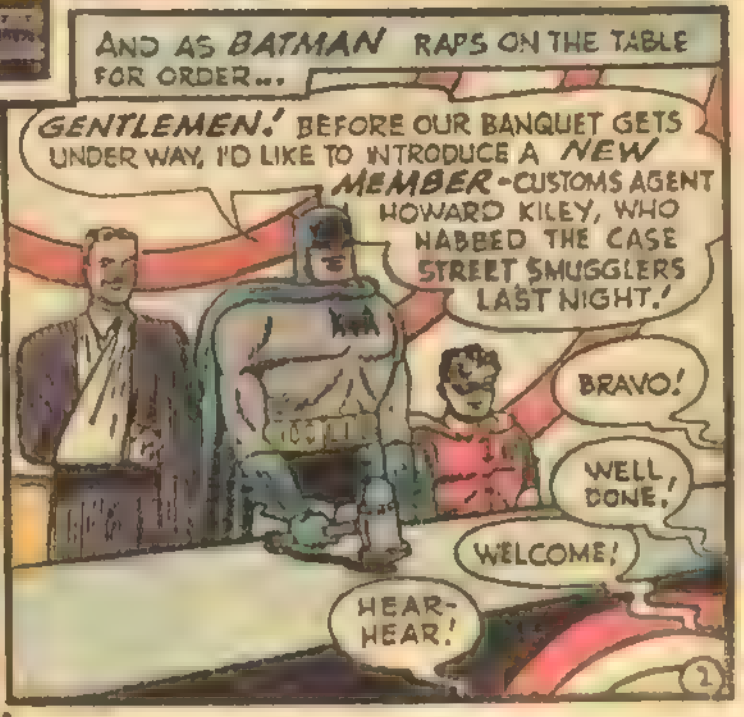
THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB


ONE EVENING, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF GOTHAM CITY'S FABULOUS BULLET-HOLE CLUB...
Bullet-Hole Club
SOME SHINDIG! SAY—WHO BELONGS TO THIS BULLET-HOLE CLUB, ANYWAY?
MEMBERSHIP IS RESTRICTED TO LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER WERE WOUNDED BY A BULLET IN THE LINE OF DUTY!


I GET IT! SORT OF A PURPLE HEART CLUB, EH?
THAT'S RIGHT. AND THE ONLY INITIATION FEE IS A BULLET LIKE THE ONES DISPLAYED RIGHT HERE.


THIS IS THEIR HONOR ROLL! THE MORE BULLET WOUNDS A MEMBER HAS, THE HIGHER HE RATES IN THE ORGANIZATION...
GOLLY! I CAN SEE NOW WHY BATMAN IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB!
NAME
NUMBER OF BULLET WOUNDS
BATMAN
NINE
THREE
THREE
THREE
THREE
TWO

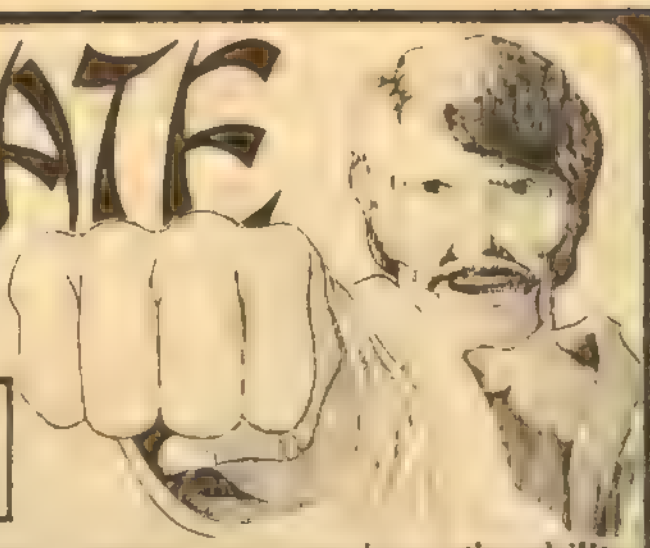

IT'S QUITE AN HONOR TO BELONG TO THIS CLUB--I THINK IT'S THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD!
IT'S NOT FOR ME! WHY--A GUY HAS TO JOIN THIS THE HARD WAY--ONLY AFTER HE'S BEEN TAGGED BY A BULLET--PSSST! WE'RE READY--HERE COMES BATMAN!
Bullet-Hole Club


AND AS BATMAN RAPS ON THE TABLE FOR ORDER...
GENTLEMEN! BEFORE OUR BANQUET GETS UNDER WAY, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER--CUSTOMS AGENT HOWARD KILEY, WHO NABBED THE CASE STREET SMUGGLERS LAST NIGHT!
BRAVO!
WELL DONE!
WELCOME!
HEAR-HEAR!

AND HERE IS AGENT KILEY'S INITIATION FEE--A BULLET HE CAUGHT IN HIS ELBOW LAST NIGHT! WILL THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PLEASE PREPARE A SHOWCASE FOR THIS BULLET!
LATER, AFTER COFFEE HAS BEEN SERVED...
OUR MAIN BUSINESS THIS EVENING, GENTLEMEN, IS TO DISCUSS THE WAYS AND MEANS OF CREATING THE PROPOSED PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF EACH MEMBER'S BULLET WOUND INCIDENT...
THIS POLICE PHOTO OF BATMAN IN ACTION GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT THE RECORD WILL LOOK LIKE...
UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY A FEW MEMBERS WERE EVER ACTUALLY PHOTOGRAPHED LIKE THIS, DURING THE ACTION WHEN THEY WERE WOUNDED... SO IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT WE RE-STAGE AS BEST WE CAN EACH MEMBER'S WOUND INCIDENT SO THAT WE CAN PHOTOGRAPH IT FOR THE RECORD!
AND, WHILE THE MEMBERS DISCUSS THE NEW PROJECT...
BATMAN, THERE'S A PRIVATE DETECTIVE NAMED FLINT OUTSIDE--SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE YOU ABOUT JOINING THE CLUB.
HMM--THE DISCUSSION IS ROUTINE RIGHT NOW--I GUESS I CAN LEAVE IT FOR A FEW MOMENTS..
THEN, IN AN ANTEROOM...
SO YOU'RE PRIVATE DETECTIVE JOE FLINT--YOU'VE BEEN WOUNDED IN A FIGHT WITH CROOKS--AND YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR CLUB?
THAT'S RIGHT, BATMAN! HERE--I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE THE BULLET HIT ME!
BUT AS FLINT REVEALS HIS WOUND TO BATMAN...
WAIT A MOMENT, FLINT! THAT BULLET MERELY GRAZED YOU! SORRY--BUT TO JOIN THIS CLUB, A BULLET WOULD HAVE HAD TO LODGE IN YOU--AND THE BULLET ITSELF WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR ADMISSION TICKET!
BUT IT ISN'T FAIR! AN INCH THE OTHER WAY, AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED! I DESERVE TO JOIN THIS CLUB, BATMAN!
3

KARATE

JUDO-SAVATE



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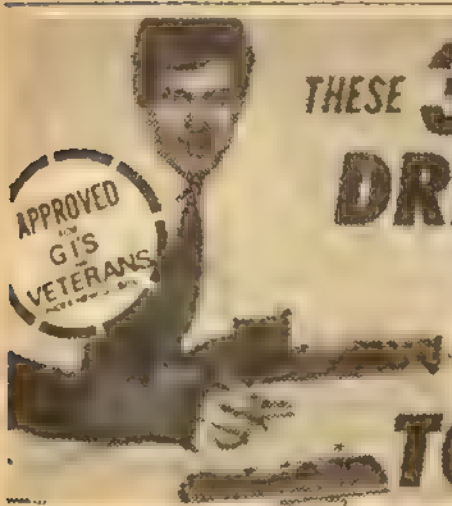

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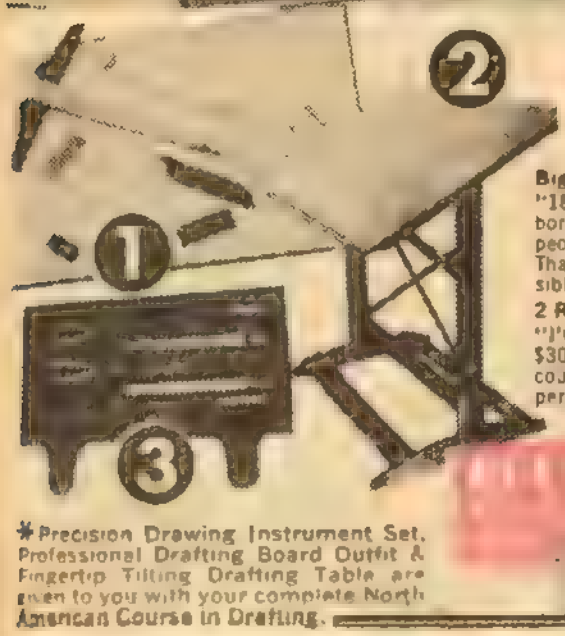

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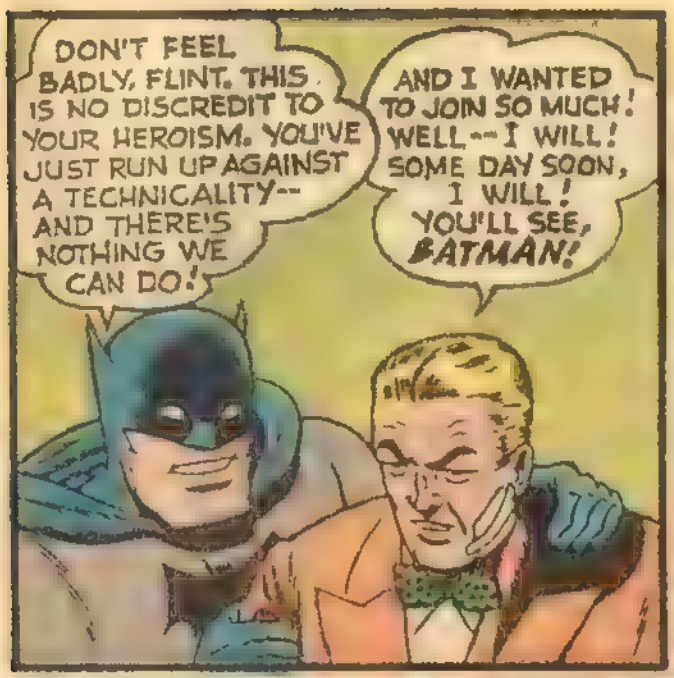
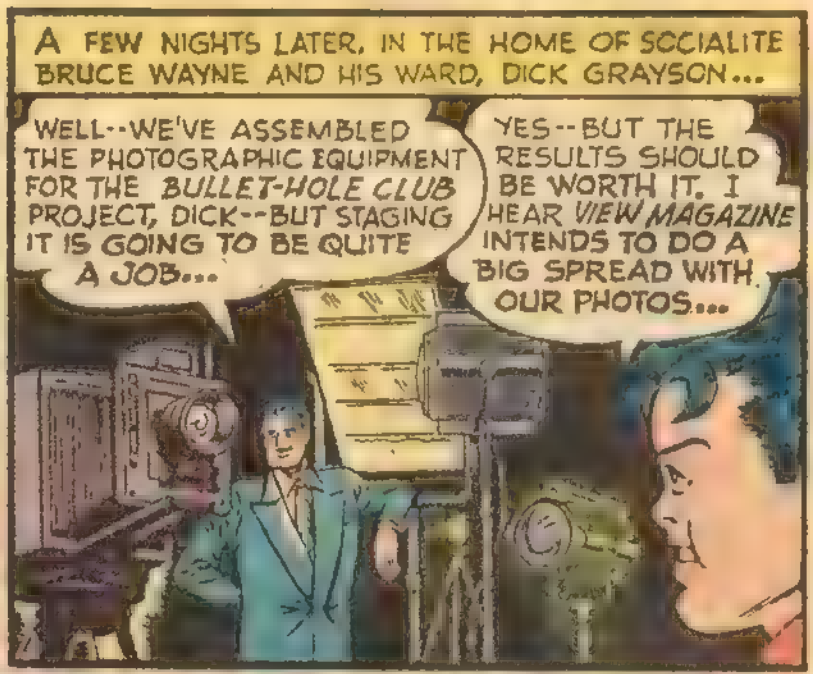
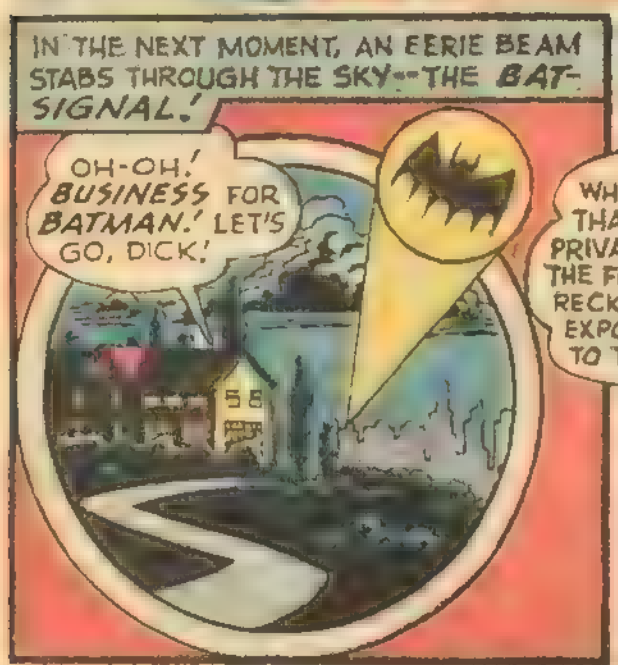
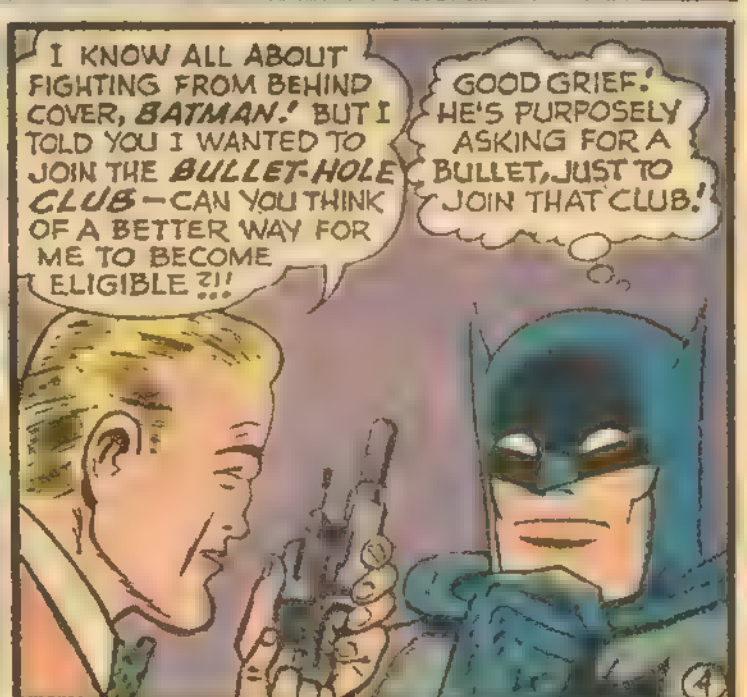

DON'T FEEL BADLY, FLINT. THIS IS NO DISCREDIT TO YOUR HEROISM. YOU'VE JUST RUN UP AGAINST A TECHNICALITY-- AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!
AND I WANTED TO JOIN SO MUCH! WELL--I WILL! SOME DAY SOON, I WILL! YOU'LL SEE, BATMAN!


A FEW NIGHTS LATER, IN THE HOME OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
WELL--WE'VE ASSEMBLED THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB PROJECT, DICK--BUT STAGING IT IS GOING TO BE QUITE A JOB...
YES--BUT THE RESULTS SHOULD BE WORTH IT. I HEAR VIEW MAGAZINE INTENDS TO DO A BIG SPREAD WITH OUR PHOTOS...

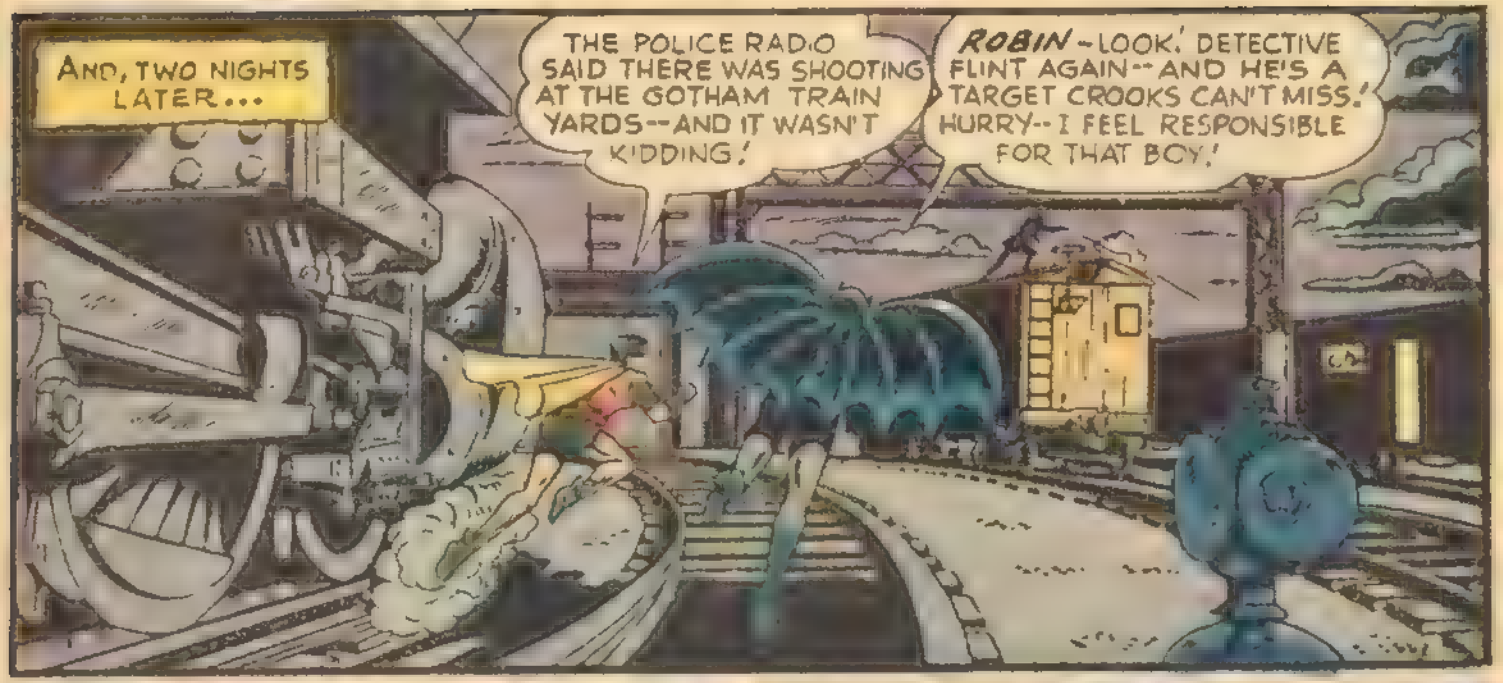

IN THE NEXT MOMENT, AN EERIE BEAM STABS THROUGH THE SKY--THE BAT-SIGNAL!
OH-OH! BUSINESS FOR BATMAN! LET'S GO, DICK!
WHY, IT'S THAT YOUNG PRIVATE DETECTIVE! THE FOOL! SEE HOW RECKLESSLY HE'S EXPOSING HIMSELF TO THOSE CROOKS!

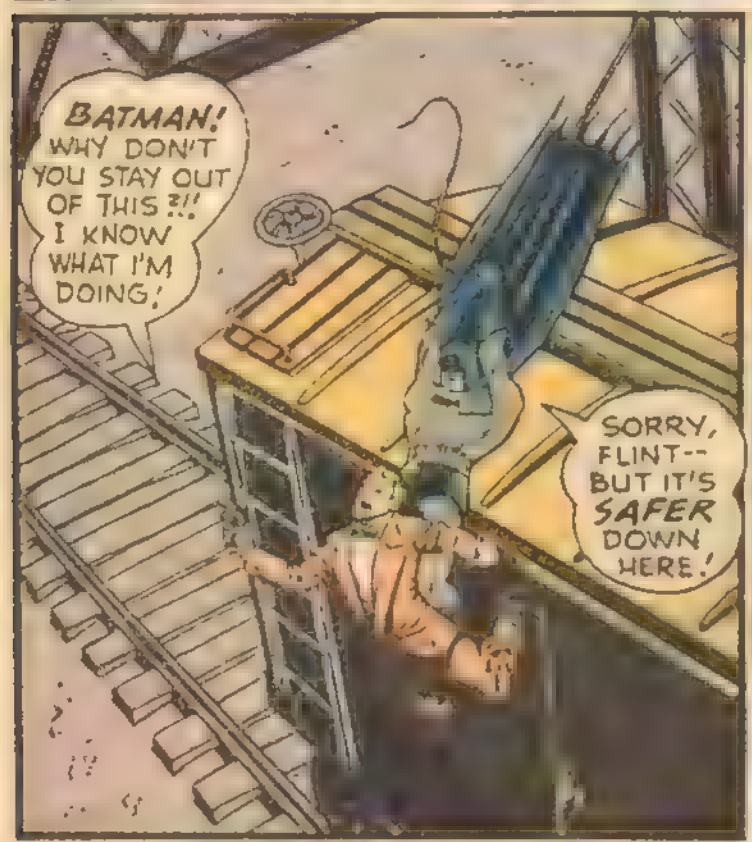
MINUTES LATER...
WE'D BETTER GET INTO THIS QUICKLY-- OR ELSE THAT GUY WILL BE PUT AWAY FOR KEEPS!

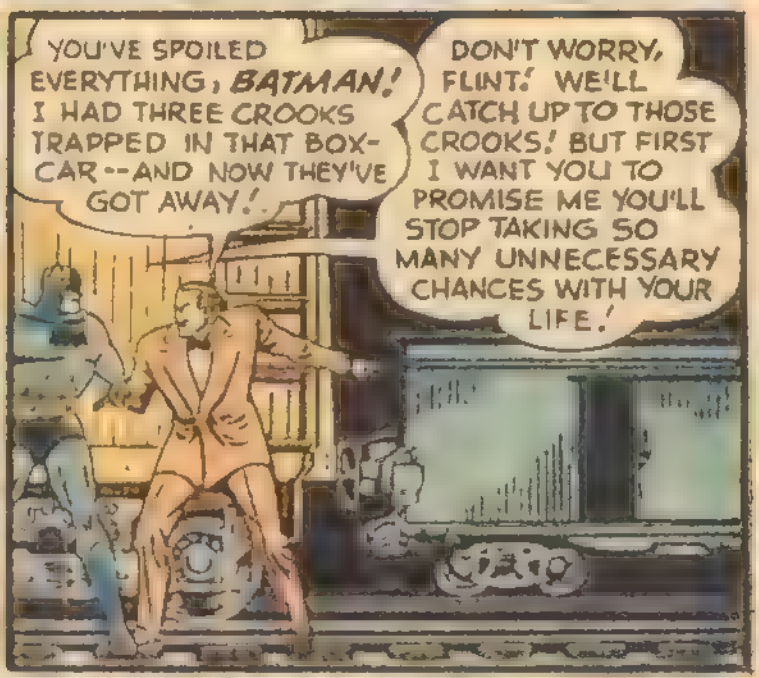
NO USE GOING AFTER THEM! THEY'VE ESCAPED IN A FAST CAR!
FLINT--ARE YOU CRAZY?!! NEVER MAKE SUCH A TARGET OF YOURSELF--LEARN TO FIGHT FROM BEHIND COVER!

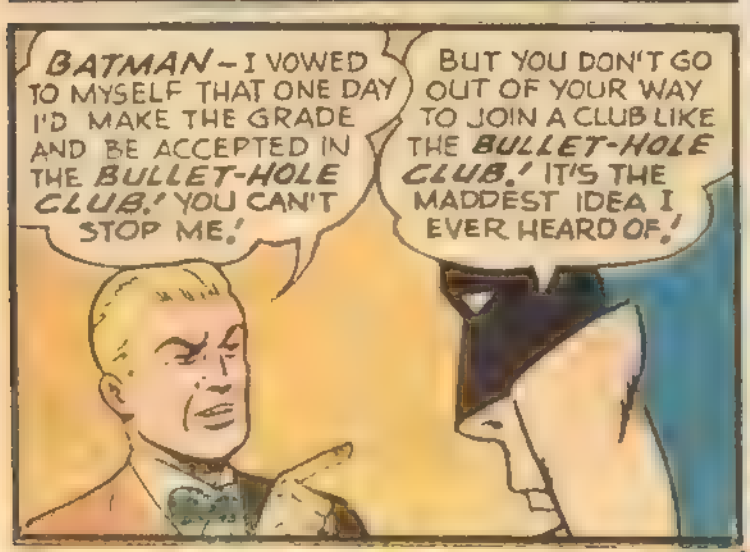

I KNOW ALL ABOUT FIGHTING FROM BEHIND COVER, BATMAN! BUT I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO JOIN THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB--CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER WAY FOR ME TO BECOME ELIGIBLE?!!
GOOD GRIEF! HE'S PURPOSELY ASKING FOR A BULLET, JUST TO JOIN THAT CLUB!
4

THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB

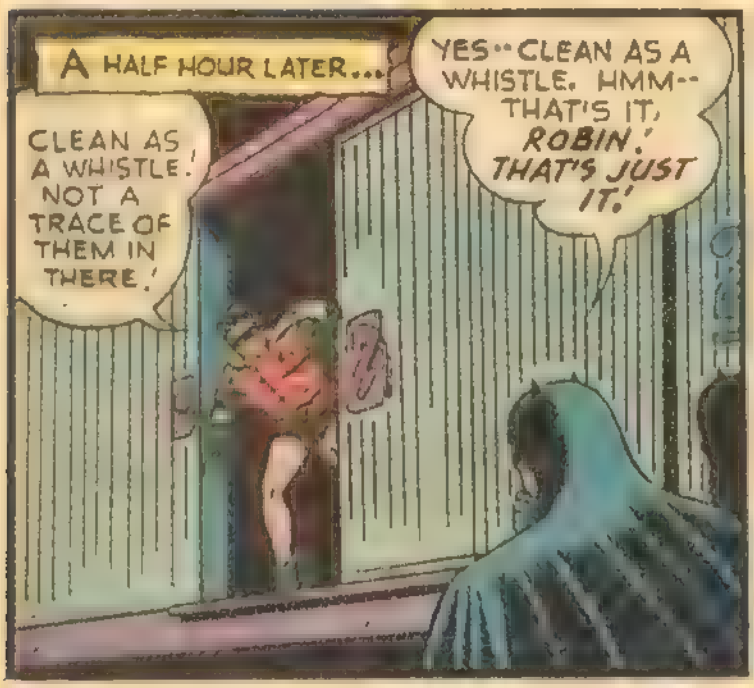

AND, TWO NIGHTS LATER...
THE POLICE RADIO SAID THERE WAS SHOOTING AT THE GOTHAM TRAIN YARDS--AND IT WASN'T KIDDING!
ROBIN--LOOK! DETECTIVE FLINT AGAIN--AND HE'S A TARGET CROOKS CAN'T MISS! HURRY--I FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT BOY!

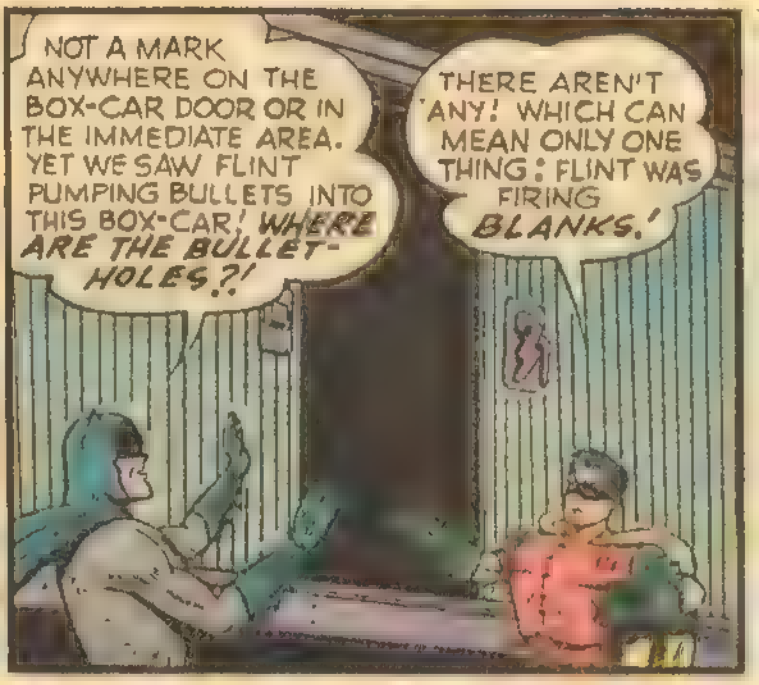



YOU'VE SPOILED EVERYTHING, BATMAN! I HAD THREE CROOKS TRAPPED IN THAT BOX-CAR--AND NOW THEY'VE GOT AWAY!
DON'T WORRY, FLINT! WE'LL CATCH UP TO THOSE CROOKS! BUT FIRST I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME YOU'LL STOP TAKING SO MANY UNNECESSARY CHANCES WITH YOUR LIFE!

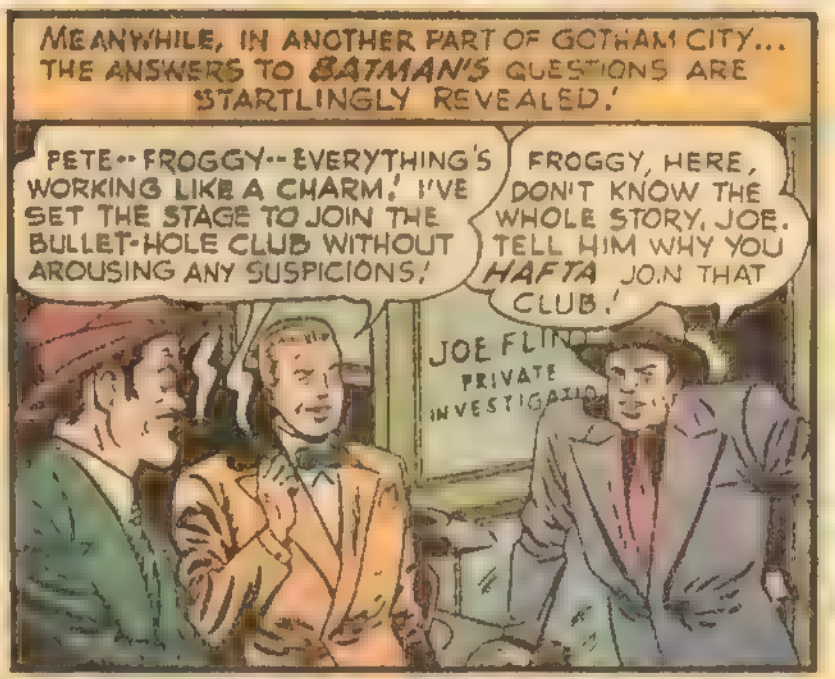

BATMAN--I VOWED TO MYSELF THAT ONE DAY I'D MAKE THE GRADE AND BE ACCEPTED IN THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB! YOU CAN'T STOP ME!
BUT YOU DON'T GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO JOIN A CLUB LIKE THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB! IT'S THE MADDEST IDEA I EVER HEARD OF!

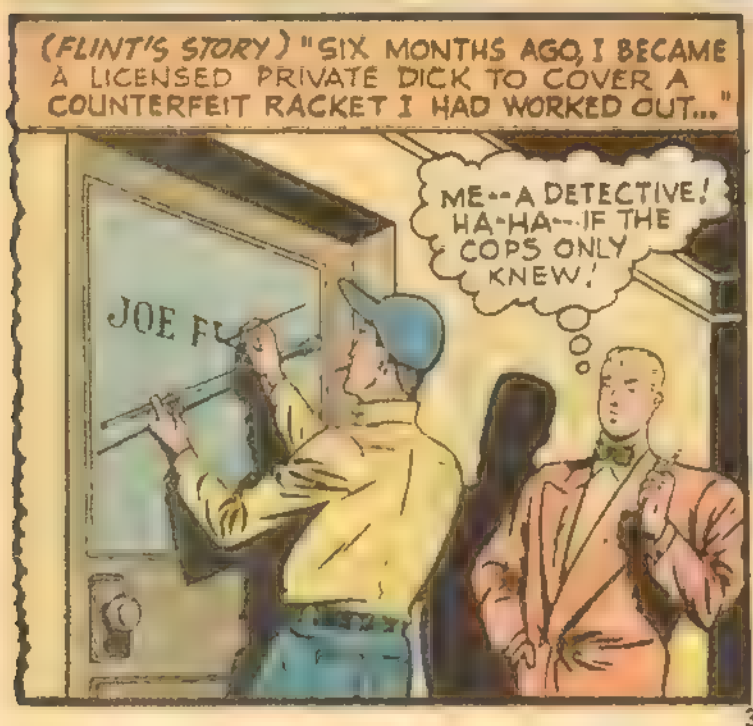
LATER...
HE WON'T LISTEN TO REASON, ROBIN! SO THE BEST THING WE CAN DO AT THE MOMENT IS NAB THOSE CROOKS HE'S BEEN CHASING--BEFORE THEY KILL HIM!
RIGHT! LET'S JUST CHECK THAT BOX-CAR THEY WERE HIDING IN FOR CLUES...

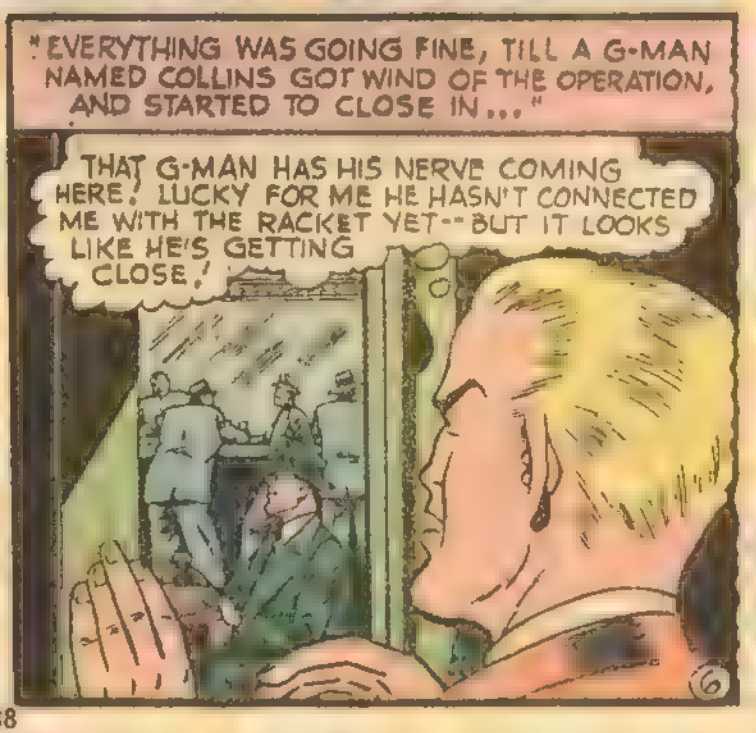

A HALF HOUR LATER...
CLEAN AS A WHISTLE! NOT A TRACE OF THEM IN THERE!
YES--CLEAN AS A WHISTLE. HMM--THAT'S IT, ROBIN! THAT'S JUST IT!


NOT A MARK ANYWHERE ON THE BOX-CAR DOOR OR IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA. YET WE SAW FLINT PUMPING BULLETS INTO THIS BOX-CAR! WHERE ARE THE BULLET-HOLES?!
THERE AREN'T 'ANY! WHICH CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING: FLINT WAS FIRING BLANKS!

BUT--WHY BLANKS? FOR WHAT REASON? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?


MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM CITY... THE ANSWERS TO BATMAN'S QUESTIONS ARE STARTLINGLY REVEALED!
PETE--FROGGY--EVERYTHING'S WORKING LIKE A CHARM! I'VE SET THE STAGE TO JOIN THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB WITHOUT AROUSING ANY SUSPICIONS!
FROGGY, HERE, DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY, JOE. TELL HIM WHY YOU HAFTA JOIN THAT CLUB!
PRIVATE


(FLINT'S STORY) "SIX MONTHS AGO, I BECAME A LICENSED PRIVATE DICK TO COVER A COUNTERFEIT RACKET I HAD WORKED OUT..."
ME--A DETECTIVE! HA-HA--IF THE COPS ONLY KNEW!


"EVERYTHING WAS GOING FINE, TILL A G-MAN NAMED COLLINS GOT WIND OF THE OPERATION, AND STARTED TO CLOSE IN..."
THAT G-MAN HAS HIS NERVE COMING HERE! LUCKY FOR ME HE HASN'T CONNECTED ME WITH THE RACKET YET--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GETTING CLOSE!
6

THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB

"I WATCHED MY CHANCE--AND A FEW NIGHTS LATER, I AMBUSHED COLLINS WITH A BULLET! BUT WHEN I RETURNED TO MY OFFICE, I MADE A HORRIFYING DISCOVERY!"

WHAT A FOOL--I USED THE WRONG GUN! THIS ONE'S REGISTERED WITH THE COPS--BALLISTIC MARKINGS AND EVERYTHING! THEY'LL SURELY TRACE THE SLUG TO ME!

"BUT THEN I GOT A BREAK! COLLINS DIDN'T DIE--AND WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS A 1,000-TO-1 SHOT THAT MADE ALL THE PAPERS..."

WOUNDED G-MAN RECOVERING!

G-Man Terry Collins was resting comfortably today, while doctors marveled at the freak of nature that permitted him to live while a bullet was lodged within him! Noted surgeon Dr. Henry Gavik pointed out to remove the bullet now is a dangerous operation--but that in six weeks' time, when adequate scar tissue is formed, the operation can take place. Meanwhile, the patient will lead a perfectly normal existence.

SIX WEEKS! I'VE GOT SIX WEEKS TO GET TO COLLINS AND DUMP HIS BODY IN THE RIVER--BEFORE THEY EXTRACT THAT SLUG!

"BUT A SUPER-SECRET WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT MADE COLLINS A MAN OF MYSTERY! HE WAS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO LOCATE--AND THEN.."

..ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE FAMED BULLET-HOLE CLUB, G-MAN TERRY COLLINS WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL HONORS AT THE CLUB'S NEXT SHINDIG...

THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB! OF COURSE! THE ONE PLACE THAT COLLINS ATTENDS REGULARLY!

SEE, FROGGY? WE TRIED TO WAYLAY COLLINS AT THE CLUB, BUT HE ALWAYS COMES AND GOES WITH AN ESCORT--THAT'S WHY THE BOSS *HAS* TO GET ON THE INSIDE!

RIGHT! AND NOW THAT WE'RE READY, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. FROGGY--YOU'RE GOING TO *PLUG* ME!

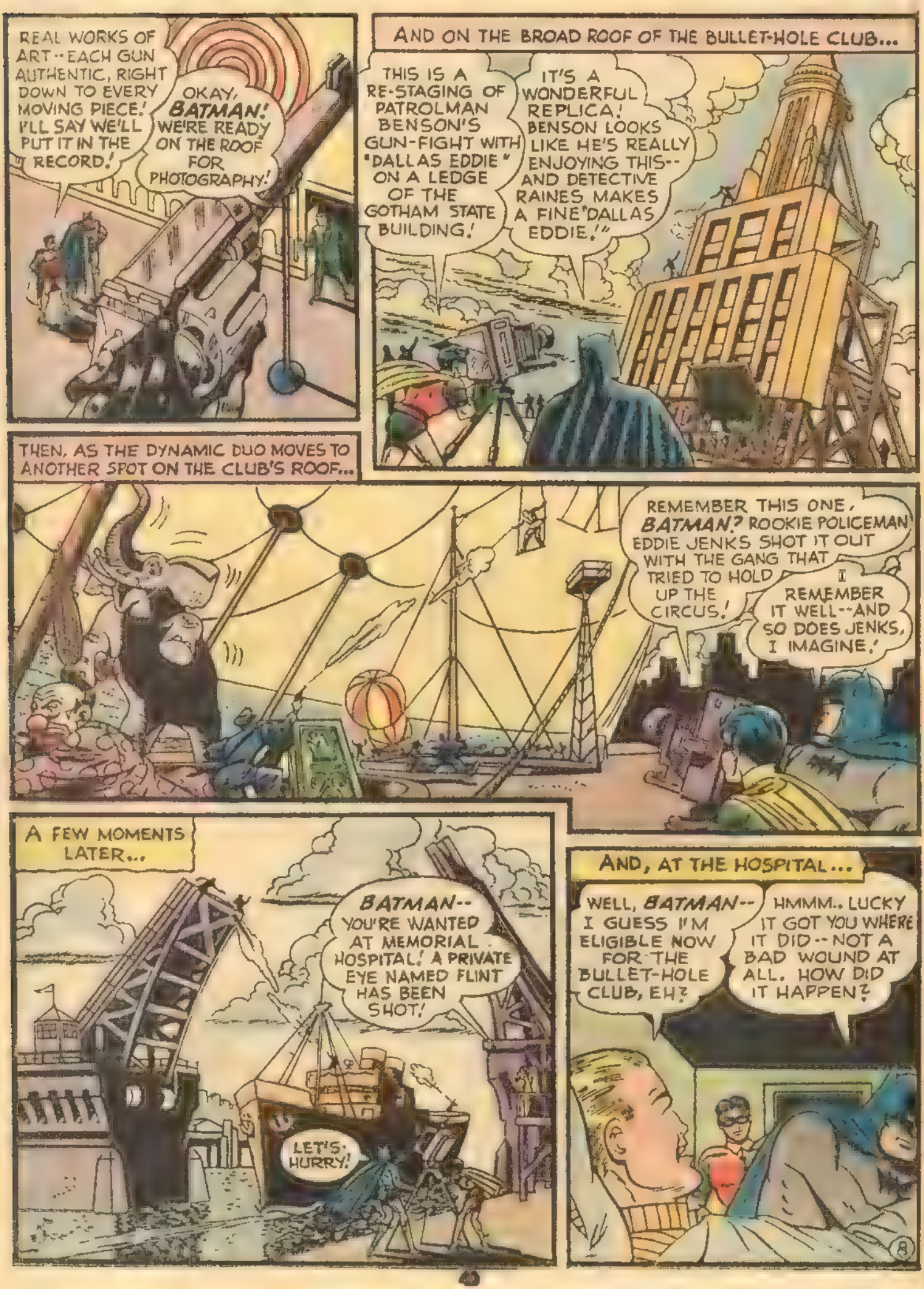
OKAY--HIT MY LEG IN THE FLESHY PART OF THE CALF, AND THEN RUN LIKE BLAZES! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST!

MEANWHILE, IN THE GUN MUSEUM OF THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB...

SOME DISPLAY, EH, *ROBIN!* ALL THE WEAPONS THAT WOUNDED OUR CLUB MEMBERS--WE'LL NEED SOME SHOTS OF THIS FOR OUR RECORD!

COLT .38

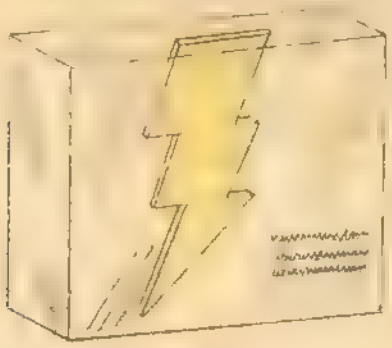
7


REAL WORKS OF ART--EACH GUN AUTHENTIC, RIGHT DOWN TO EVERY MOVING PIECE! I'LL SAY WE'LL PUT IT IN THE RECORD!
OKAY, BATMAN! WE'RE READY ON THE ROOF FOR PHOTOGRAPHY!
AND ON THE BROAD ROOF OF THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB...
THIS IS A RE-STAGING OF PATROLMAN BENSON'S GUN-FIGHT WITH "DALLAS EDDIE" ON A LEDGE OF THE GOTHAM STATE BUILDING!
IT'S A WONDERFUL REPLICA! BENSON LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY ENJOYING THIS--AND DETECTIVE RAINES MAKES A FINE "DALLAS EDDIE!"
THEN, AS THE DYNAMIC DUO MOVES TO ANOTHER SPOT ON THE CLUB'S ROOF...
REMEMBER THIS ONE, BATMAN? ROOKIE POLICEMAN EDDIE JENKS SHOT IT OUT WITH THE GANG THAT TRIED TO HOLD UP THE CIRCUS!
I REMEMBER IT WELL--AND SO DOES JENKS, I IMAGINE!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
BATMAN--YOU'RE WANTED AT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL! A PRIVATE EYE NAMED FLINT HAS BEEN SHOT!
LET'S HURRY!
AND, AT THE HOSPITAL...
WELL, BATMAN--I GUESS I'M ELIGIBLE NOW FOR THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB, EH?
HMMM.. LUCKY IT GOT YOU WHERE IT DID--NOT A BAD WOUND AT ALL. HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB

I WALKED OUT OF MY OFFICE ON MY WAY DOWN FOR COFFEE AND--BLAM--SOMEBODY FIRED FROM THE END OF THE CORRIDOR--I DON'T KNOW WHO!
WELL, WE'LL TRY TO FIND WHATEVER CLUES WE CAN...
LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE...
ROBIN, THESE ARE THE TROUSERS THAT FLINT WAS WEARING WHEN HE WAS SHOT! NOTICE ANYTHING ODD ABOUT THE BULLET HOLE?
I DON'T THINK SO. IT'S MUCH LIKE ANY OTHER BULLET-HOLE I'VE EVER SEEN...
WE SAW FLINT'S WOUND--IT WAS IN THE FLESHY PART OF HIS CALF -RIGHT HERE! YET THE BULLET-HOLE IN HIS TROUSERS IS FAR BELOW WHERE HIS CALF WOULD BE!
NOTICE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE TROUSER LEG IS PULLED UP THUSLY! FLINT WAS SHOT WHILE SEATED, AND NOT WHILE WALKING AS HE CLAIMED!
FIRST THE BLANK BULLETS--NOW A FALSE STORY! WHAT WILL WE DO ABOUT HIM, BATMAN?
SAAY! THAT'S RIGHT! BUT HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN?
FLINT IS TRYING DESPERATELY TO JOIN THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB. HE MAY HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE. THE BEST WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO GIVE HIM ENOUGH ROPE TO HANG HIMSELF!
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING
9

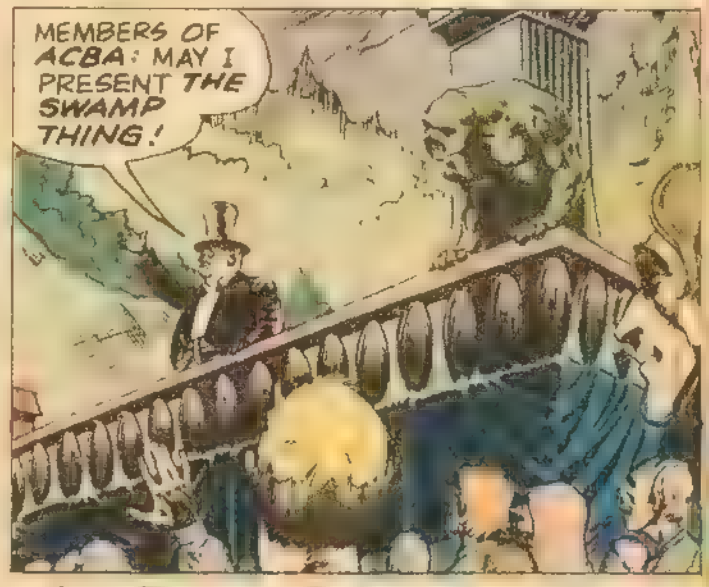
SHAZAM! It's a few minutes after midnight and I'm trying to get my thoughts together so I can tell you about the 1972 annual *SHAZAM AWARDS* given by the *Academy of the Comic Book Arts,* the organization of comic professionals. Every year at this time *ACBA* holds an annual banquet to honor those professionals who have produced the best work in the industry during the previous year.



Heading the list of *National's* award-winners are a pair of very special awards that *ACBA* gave to Julie Schwartz and Gerda Gattel, two of the people who have kept *National* Number One since the Golden Age of Comics.

Fittingly, Julie Schwartz won his *Shazam* for "Superior Achievement By An Individual" for the year which featured the return of the *Shazam Family* of characters to the newsstand under his editorial guidance. I'm sure that our super-editor's other heroic work wasn't ignored by the Academy, though. After all, the super-hero was returned to popularity in the mid-50s under his editorship too.

Most of you have probably never heard of Gerda Gattel, but she's been *National's* proofreader for many years. Gerda couldn't believe that she had won an award, because the *Shazams* weren't around in the days when she was a demon letterer, and there's no proofreader category. The *ACBA* board knows better than to worry about categories though . . . It gave her a special award "for bringing her special warmth to our industry."



One of our newer super-stars had a very good night. *The Swamp Thing* walked away with several honors. On the basis of the first issue, the only one eligible in this year's awards, the mag captured best story (for "Dark Genesis" from *Swamp Thing* #1), and helped his creators to best writer and penciller (dramatic) awards. Or did creators Len Wein (whose sensational scripting also is featured in the *Justice League* and *Human Target* series) and Berni Wrightson (whose mystery art is the most acclaimed ever to grace *DC's* mags) help Swampy to his awards? Or does it matter?

I shouldn't have slighted editor Joe Orlando in the *Swamp Thing* listing, but I wanted to save his kudos for this paragraph, where I'll mention that he edited all three of the "Best Story" award winners. Besides "Dark Genesis" in the dramatic story category, there was the best dramatic short story "The Demon Within" from *House of Mystery* #201, by John Albano and Jim Aparo. John's scripting can be found in most of the Orlando family of books, and Jim's art is in every issue of *Brave & Bold, Detective Comics,* and *Adventure Comics*. The third winner was in the "best humor story" category, and it was "The Poster Plague" from *House of Mystery* #202, by Steve Skeates and Sergio Aragones. This story helped inspire *PLOP!* Steve's stories appear in *The Phantom Stranger* magazine, and best humor inker Sergio Aragones' art lurks in *Plop* and *MAD Magazine.*

AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK, WHEN THE FULLY RECOVERED FLINT HAS BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB...
THE MUSEUM HAS RECEIVED A NEW WEAPON, GENTLEMEN--AND IT'S TO BE DEDICATED NEXT WEEK!
AS YOU KNOW, CUSTOM CALLS FOR AN ELECTION OF THE MOST POPULAR MEMBER OF THE MONTH TO CONDUCT THE DEDICATION FROM THIS PLATFORM!
THIS GUN--WHAT A BEAUTY! AND IT'S AIMED RIGHT FOR THAT PLATFORM! IF I COULD ONLY GET AMMUNITION FOR IT--AND FIND A WAY OF GETTING COLLINS ON THAT PLATFORM!
YOU'LL BE GIVEN THESE TWO-PIECE "VOTING BULLETS." SIMPLY WRITE THE NAME OF YOUR CHOICE ON A SMALL PIECE OF PAPER, INSERT IT IN THE BULLET AND RETURN IT TO THE BALLOT COMMITTEE...
LATER...
A "VOTING BULLET," EH? MAYBE MY IDEA OF USING THAT GIANT GUN WASN'T AS WILD AS I THOUGHT!
AND THAT EVENING...
THIS CARTRIDGE HAS BEEN SCALED EXACTLY TO FIT THAT SMITH AND WESSON IN THE MUSEUM--AND IT WILL BLOW COLLINS TO SMITHEREENS!
I'LL STUFF THE BALLOT BOX WITH THESE "BULLET-VOTES" FOR COLLINS--NO ONE WILL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE--AND HE'LL BE ON THAT PLATFORM FOR THE KILL!

AND, ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES...
LOADED AND READY! WITH THIN BUT STRONG WIRE ATTACHED TO THE TRIGGER, I CAN SET IT OFF FROM A PLACE OF CONCEALMENT AS SOON AS COLLINS GETS INTO POSITION!
THEN, MOMENTS AFTER FLINT HAS SNEAKED OUT OF THE MUSEUM...
WE'VE STRUCK PAYDIRT, BATMAN! FLINT'S AFTER COLLINS, ALL RIGHT-- WHAT A FIENDISH DEATH-TRAP! LET'S PICK HIM UP RIGHT NOW!
I DON'T KNOW... FLINT'S CLEVER-- HE MIGHT WRIGGLE OUT OF THIS. WE'D DO BETTER TO CATCH HIM IN THE ACT-- RED-HANDED!
BUT THAT'S DANGEROUS! HOW FAR CAN WE LET HIM GO!??
I'VE AN IDEA! THESE DISPLAYS ARE ON CIRCULAR SECTIONS OF FLOOR THAT REVOLVE TO ACHIEVE DIFFERENT DISPLAY EFFECTS. WHAT WILL FLINT SAY IF HE SUDDENLY FINDS THIS GUN POINTED RIGHT AT HIS HEAD?
AND THE NEXT DAY, AS COLLINS PREPARES TO MOUNT THE PLATFORM FOR THE DEDICATION...
OKAY, ROBIN! PRESS THE BUTTON AND TURN THE TABLES ON MR. FLINT! THEN WE'LL GRAB HIM!
BUT, ALL AT ONCE...
THAT GUN WILL GO OFF AT ANY MOMENT! HOW CAN I POSSIBLY STOP IT!?
THE CONTROLS JAMMED! THE FLOOR SECTION WON'T MOVE!
SUDDENLY...
BATMAN'S CLICKED THE SAFETY CATCH! BOY, THAT WAS FAST THINKING!
CLICK

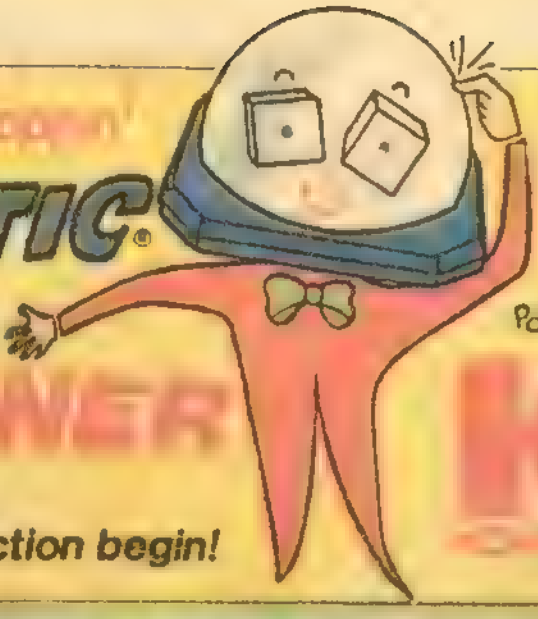
THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB

AND AS FLINT'S PLAN BLOWS UP IN HIS FACE, HIS MIND SUDDENLY SNAPS, AS...
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME, BATMAN-- NEVER! HA-HA-HA!
CAREFUL, ROBIN! HE'S GONE MAD!
LOOK! HE'S GOING TO JUMP OUT THAT WINDOW!
HA-HA! I TOLD YOU YOU WOULDN'T GET ME, BATMAN!
LOOKS LIKE I HAD TO SHOOT THE WORK'S TO NAIL THIS CHAP, ROBIN!
OHHH! MY LEG!
COLT
CAL. 45
BATMAN'S PULLED THE TRIGGER—AND THE FIRING PIN HAS TRAPPED FLINT!
LATER ... AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
FLINT WILL BE COMMITTED TO A MENTAL HOSPITAL. HE'S DELIRIOUS--BUT WE'VE PIECED TOGETHER A FULL CONFESSION FROM HIS BABBLINGS...
COMMISS GORDO
12
AND, THAT NIGHT...
THE DOCTORS EXPECT TO OPERATE ON COLLINS NEXT WEEK. I SEE YOU'RE NOT LOSING ANY TIME!
THAT'S RIGHT--BUT THIS IS ONE BULLET THAT CERTAINLY CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET IT IN THIS SHOWCASE!
SLUG TAKEN FROM THE CHEST OF G-MAN TERRY COLLINS. THE WOUND WAS INFLICTED BY JOE FLINT. OCT. 4, 1949.
THE END

The Fun Name Means Poppin'

POP-O-MATIC®

Action Games by KOHNER



Just pop Pop'ee and watch the action begin!

HEADACHE®

2 to 4 players
Ages 6 and up

Give opponents a Headache by capturing their men! Lots of surprises and thrills! If you don't like excitement, don't play this game!

TROUBLE®

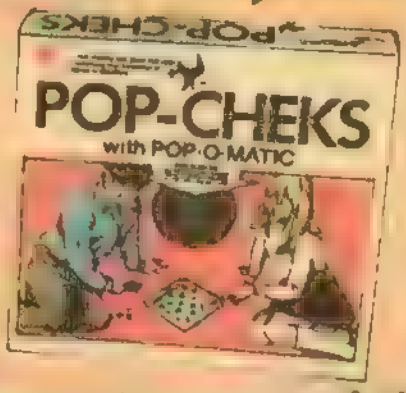
2 to 4 players
Ages 5 and up

Pop! Your move—and your "man" lands on your opponent, so *he's* in Trouble® and must go back to start! Yippee! What a chase! What a game!

POP-CHEKS™ WITH POP-O-MATIC

Exciting New Checker Game

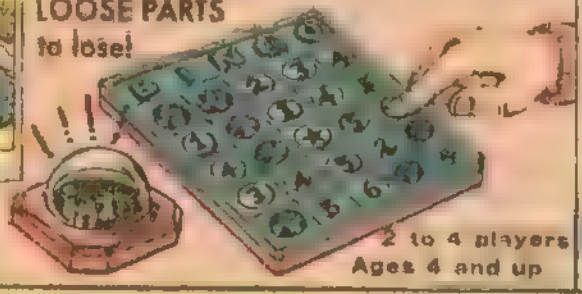
Adds a new dimension of *chance* to the *skill* of playing checkers! Real family appeal.



Ages 8 and up

POP-O-MATIC BINGO

All the luck and thrills of BINGO *plus* Pop-O-Matic action and built-in push-button Numbers! Take with you—NO LOOSE PARTS to lose!



2 to 4 players
Ages 4 and up

POP-DOG™

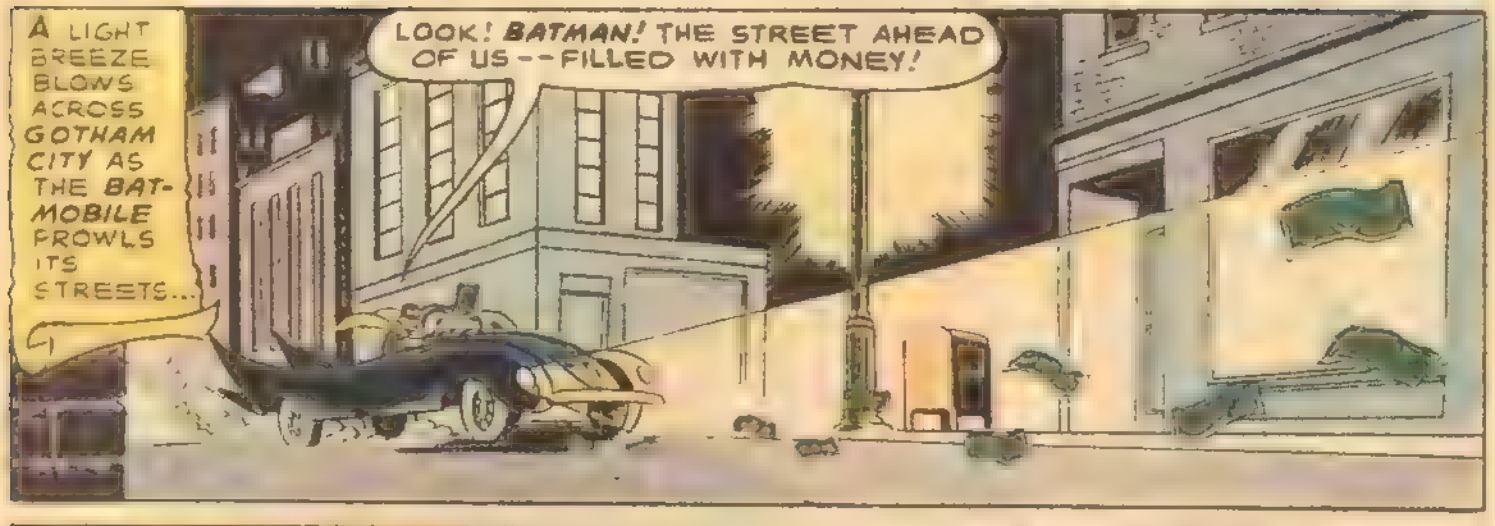
Strange-looking animals turn up on playboards at each pop! A laugh for every pop! NO LOOSE PARTS!

2 to 4 players
Ages 5 to 8

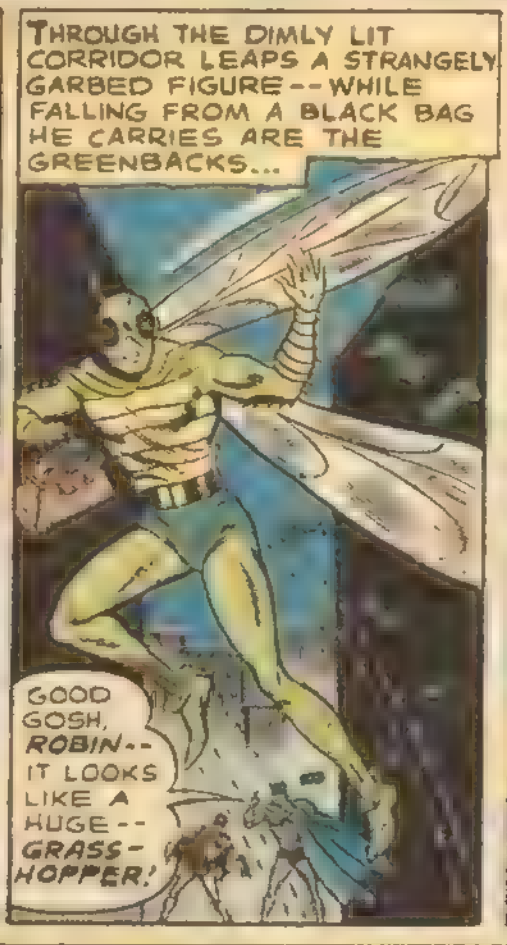
Available at these fine stores:

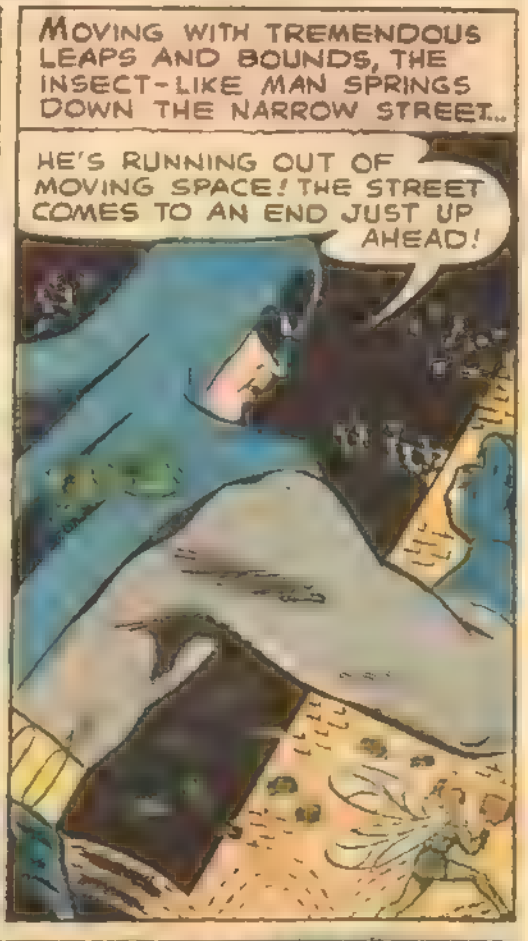
McCRORY • McLELLAN • H.L.GREEN • BRITTS • J.J.NEWBERRY • HESTED • S.KLEIN

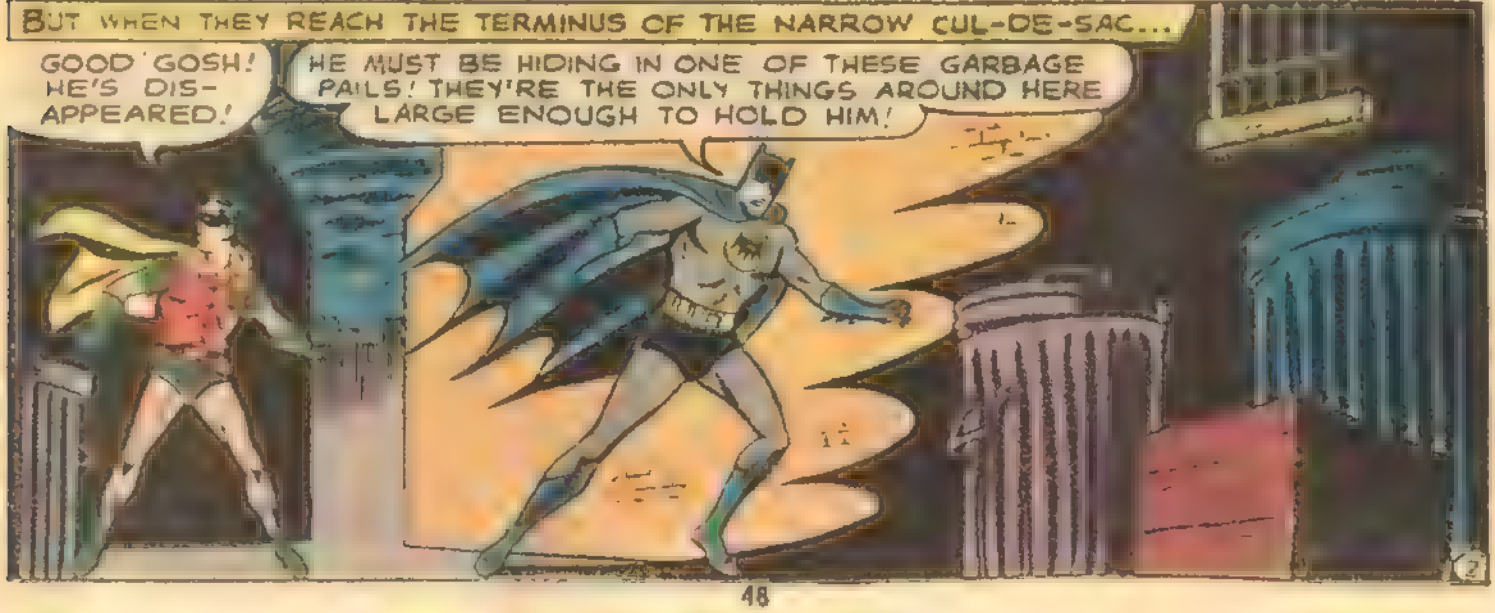
IF YOU READ "GOTHAM GANG LINE-UP," IN THE JANUARY DETECTIVE, YOU KNOW THAT, A FEW YEARS BACK, ALFRED, BRUCE WAYNE'S BUTLER, WAS APPARENTLY KILLED! IT WAS SOON AFTER THIS, WHILE I WAS SETTING UP A MEMORIAL FOUNDATION IN ALFRED'S NAME, THAT I RAN INTO PERHAPS THE MOST FANTASTIC VILLAIN I'VE EVER FOUGHT! YOU'LL FIND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT HIM IN THIS ADVENTURE FROM THE SIZZLING SIXTIES!
THROUGHOUT HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER, BATMAN HAS ALWAYS PROTECTED THE PROPERTY OF OTHER PEOPLE! NOW HE SUFFERS THE LOSS OF SOME OF HIS OWN PRIZED POSSESSIONS-- THE BATMOBILE! THE BATBOAT! EVEN ROBIN HIMSELF! ALL HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM HIM BY AN ELUSIVE THIEF WHO HAS SINGLED OUT BATMAN AS HIS PERSONAL PREY!
BATMAN
ROBIN
The Boy Wonder
STORY: GARDNER FOX
The MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN
MY LATEST CRIME-SCOOP-- THE THEFT OF ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!
BOB KANE


A LIGHT BREEZE BLOWS ACROSS GOTHAM CITY AS THE BAT-MOBILE PROWLS ITS STREETS...
LOOK! BATMAN! THE STREET AHEAD OF US--FILLED WITH MONEY!

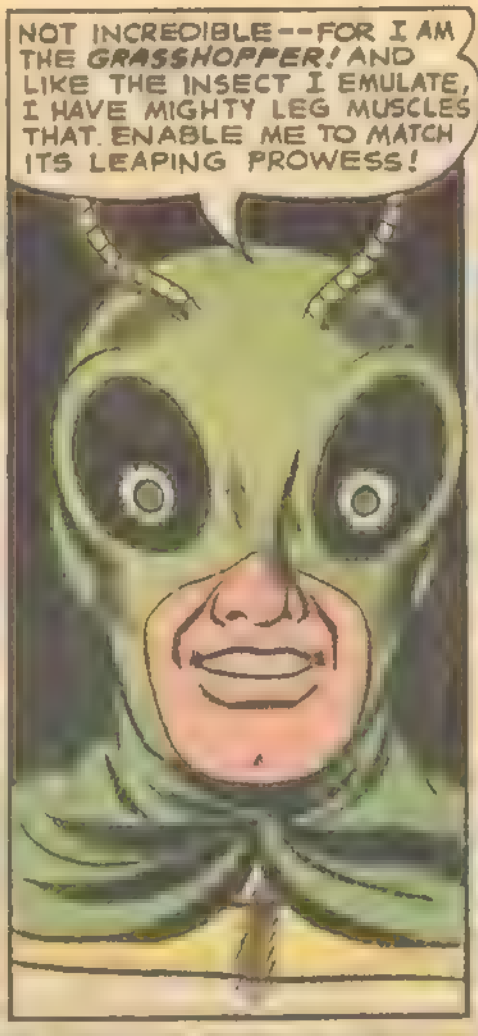
THE MONEY-TRAIL TAKES A TURN AT THE NEXT CORNER WHERE...
I SPOTTED SOMEONE TURN DOWN THIS DEAD END STREET...
OUR BEST BET NOW IS TO OVERTAKE HIM ON FOOT!


THROUGH THE DIMLY LIT CORRIDOR LEAPS A STRANGELY GARBED FIGURE--WHILE FALLING FROM A BLACK BAG HE CARRIES ARE THE GREENBACKS...
GOOD GOSH, ROBIN--IT LOOKS LIKE A HUGE--GRASS-HOPPER!


MOVING WITH TREMENDOUS LEAPS AND BOUNDS, THE INSECT-LIKE MAN SPRINGS DOWN THE NARROW STREET...
HE'S RUNNING OUT OF MOVING SPACE! THE STREET COMES TO AN END JUST UP AHEAD!


BUT WHEN THEY REACH THE TERMINUS OF THE NARROW CUL-DE-SAC...
GOOD GOSH! HE'S DISAPPEARED!
HE MUST BE HIDING IN ONE OF THESE GARBAGE PAILS! THEY'RE THE ONLY THINGS AROUND HERE LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD HIM!

WHEN A FRUSTRATING SEARCH FAILS TO REVEAL THEIR QUARRY...
BATMAN! ROBIN! HERE I AM--UP ON THIS ROOF!
INCREDIBLE!


NOT INCREDIBLE--FOR I AM THE GRASSHOPPER! AND LIKE THE INSECT I EMULATE, I HAVE MIGHTY LEG MUSCLES THAT ENABLE ME TO MATCH ITS LEAPING PROWESS!

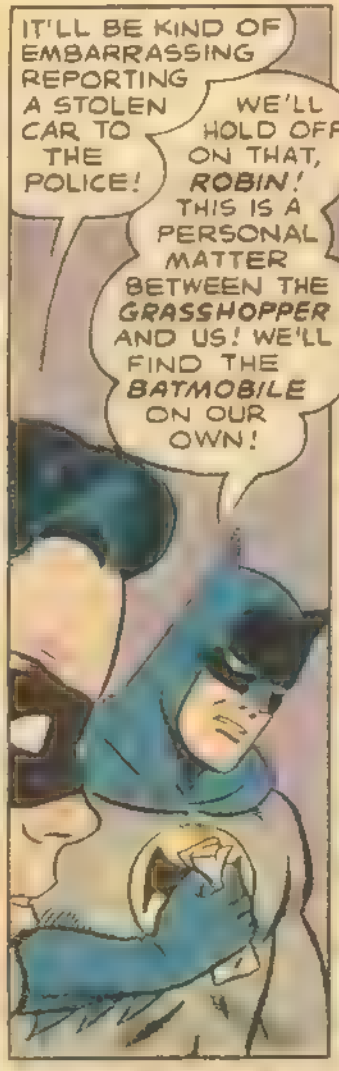
TWIN BAT-ROPES FLY THROUGH THE AIR AS...
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS JUMP OUT OF THAT DEAD END--AND PRESTO! HERE I AM AND THERE YOU ARE--UNABLE TO COME CLOSE ENOUGH TO CAPTURE ME!
WHERE HE JUMPED...WE CAN CLIMB, ROBIN!

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND BOY WONDER ARE CLAMBERING UP THAT AWESOME HEIGHT...
FASTER--FASTER--OR YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE OF CATCHING ME!

BUT WHEN THEY REACH THE ROOFTOP, SECONDS LATER...
HE'S GONE! HE MUST'VE JUMPED TO A NEARBY ROOF!
HE LEFT A NOTE FOR US--LOOK THERE!

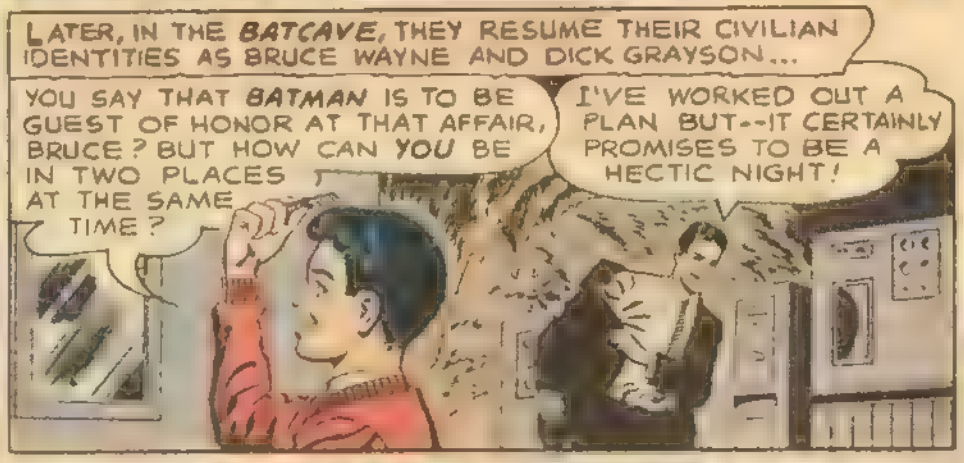
LISTEN! "THIS IS THE OPENING BLOW IN MY CAMPAIGN TO STEAL YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS, BATMAN! EVEN AS YOU READ THIS, I AM STEALING YOUR BATMOBILE! AFTER THAT--BUT YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE!"

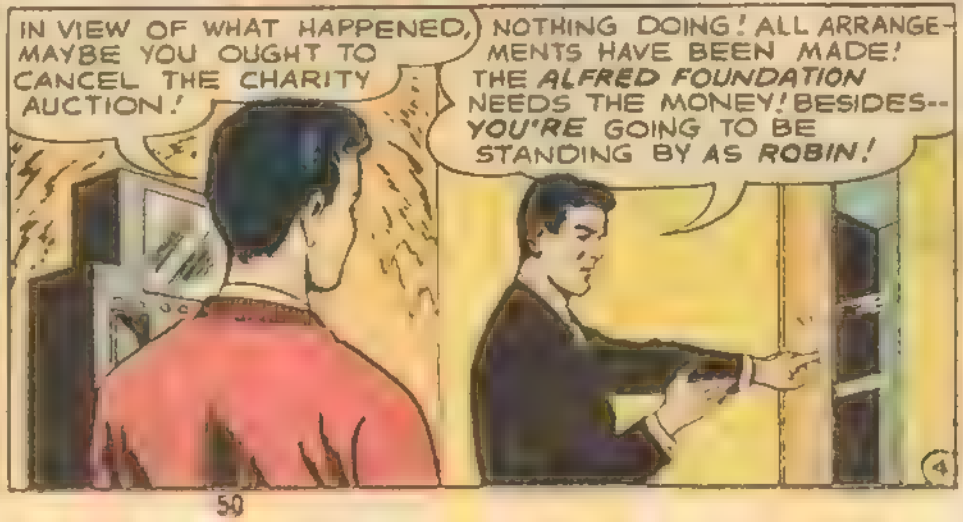
THE NEXT MOMENT, THE ROAR OF A MIGHTY MOTOR ECHOES IN THE NIGHT...
HE WASN'T KIDDING! THERE HE GOES WITH THE BAT-MOBILE!
DESPITE ALL OUR SAFE-GUARDS, HE KNEW HOW TO START THE MOTOR WITHOUT AN IGNITION KEY!


IT'LL BE KIND OF EMBARRASSING REPORTING A STOLEN CAR TO THE POLICE!
WE'LL HOLD OFF ON THAT, ROBIN! THIS IS A PERSONAL MATTER BETWEEN THE GRASSHOPPER AND US! WE'LL FIND THE BATMOBILE ON OUR OWN!

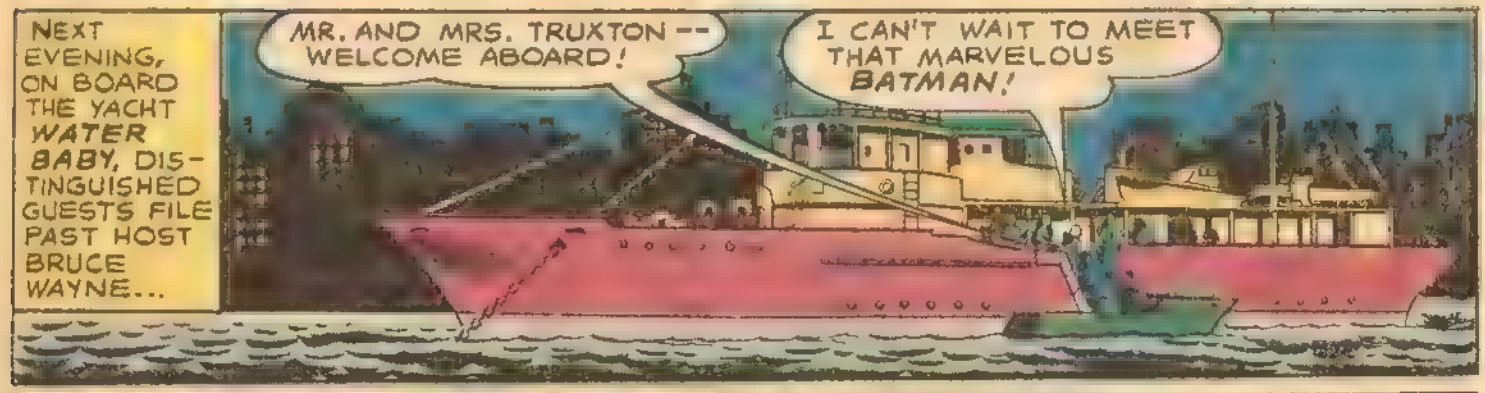
SLOWLY, THE COWLED CRUSADER AND THE BOY WONDER TRUDGE HOMEWARD...
I WONDER WHEN AND WHERE HE'LL STRIKE AGAIN-- WHAT "PRIZED POSSESSION" HE'LL BE AFTER NEXT?
ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT-- BE ON THE ALERT!

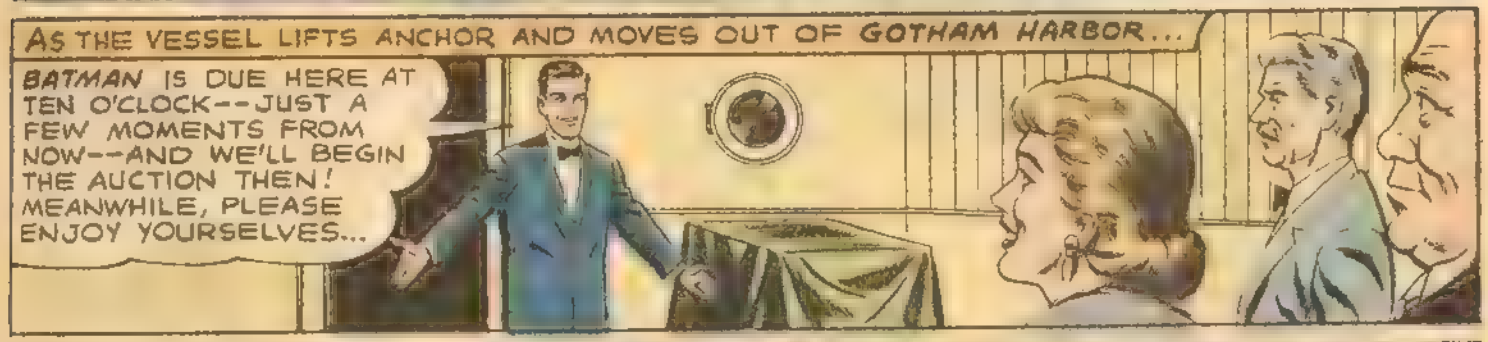
UNTIL THEN, HOWEVER--WE'RE GOING TO LEAD OUR NORMAL LIVES! WHICH REMINDS ME THAT AS BRUCE WAYNE--I'M TO ACT AS HOST OF THE ALFRED FOUNDATION CHARITY AUCTION ABOARD THE YACHT WATER BABY--TOMORROW NIGHT!

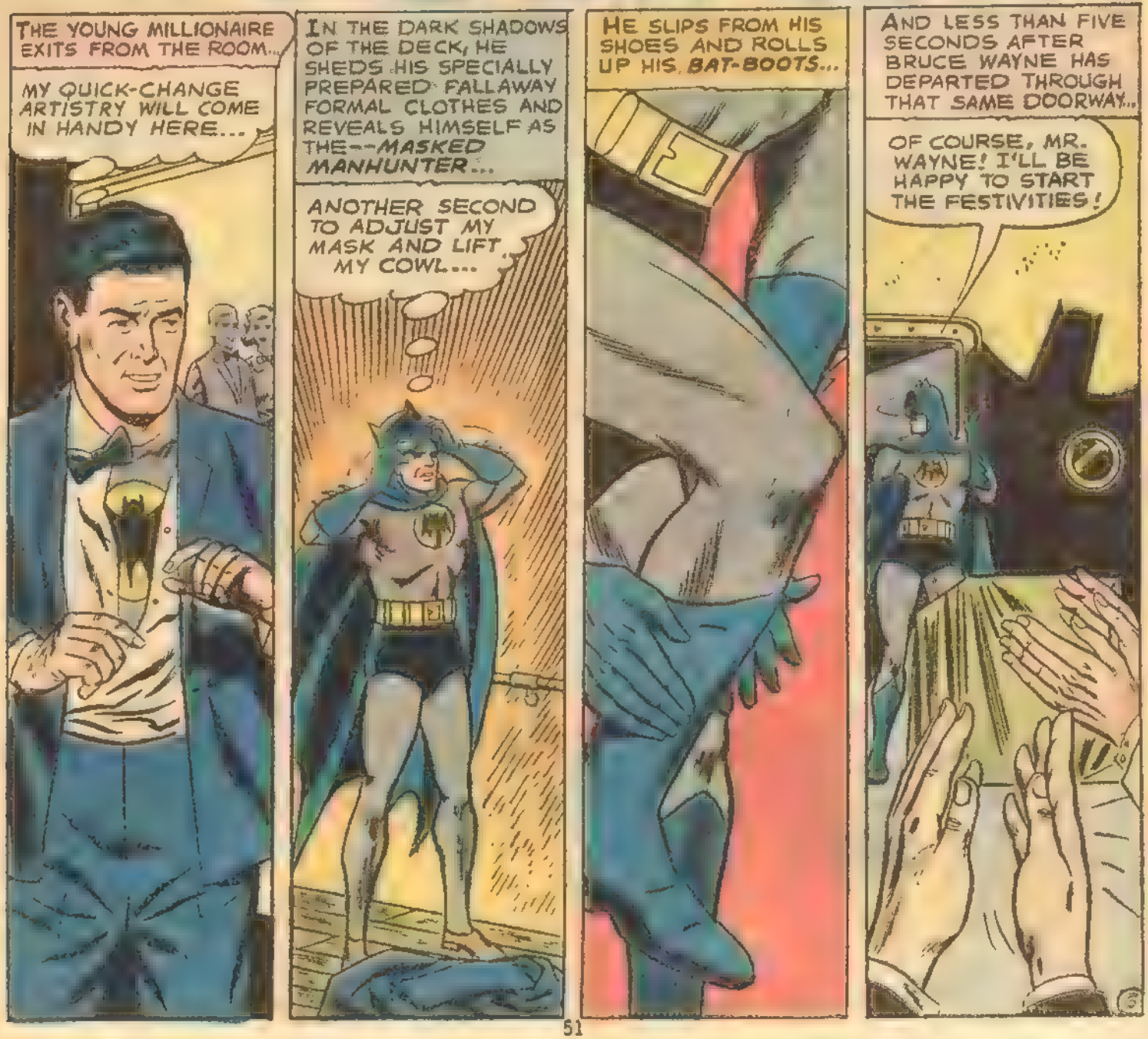

LATER, IN THE BATCAVE, THEY RESUME THEIR CIVILIAN IDENTITIES AS BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...
YOU SAY THAT BATMAN IS TO BE GUEST OF HONOR AT THAT AFFAIR, BRUCE? BUT HOW CAN YOU BE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME?
I'VE WORKED OUT A PLAN BUT--IT CERTAINLY PROMISES TO BE A HECTIC NIGHT!


IN VIEW OF WHAT HAPPENED, MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO CANCEL THE CHARITY AUCTION!
NOTHING DOING! ALL ARRANGE-MENTS HAVE BEEN MADE! THE ALFRED FOUNDATION NEEDS THE MONEY! BESIDES--YOU'RE GOING TO BE STANDING BY AS ROBIN!
4

THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN


NEXT EVENING, ON BOARD THE YACHT *WATER BABY*, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FILE PAST HOST BRUCE WAYNE...
MR. AND MRS. TRUXTON -- WELCOME ABOARD!
I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THAT MARVELOUS *BATMAN!*


AS THE VESSEL LIFTS ANCHOR AND MOVES OUT OF *GOTHAM HARBOR*...
BATMAN IS DUE HERE AT TEN O'CLOCK--JUST A FEW MOMENTS FROM NOW--AND WE'LL BEGIN THE AUCTION THEN! MEANWHILE, PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELVES...


THE YOUNG MILLIONAIRE EXITS FROM THE ROOM...
MY QUICK-CHANGE ARTISTRY WILL COME IN HANDY HERE...
IN THE DARK SHADOWS OF THE DECK, HE SHEDS HIS SPECIALLY PREPARED FALLAWAY FORMAL CLOTHES AND REVEALS HIMSELF AS THE--*MASKED MANHUNTER*...
ANOTHER SECOND TO ADJUST MY MASK AND LIFT MY COWL...
HE SLIPS FROM HIS SHOES AND ROLLS UP HIS *BAT-BOOTS*...
AND LESS THAN FIVE SECONDS AFTER BRUCE WAYNE HAS DEPARTED THROUGH THAT SAME DOORWAY...
OF COURSE, MR. WAYNE! I'LL BE HAPPY TO START THE FESTIVITIES!

THE COWLED CRUSADER TAKES HIS PLACE ON THE DAIS AND UNVEILS A GREAT BOX FILLED WITH MEMENTOS OF HIS MEMORABLE CAREER...

I'VE DONATED A FEW ARTICLES I'VE USED IN MY MANY CASES--TO BE AUCTIONED TO GET THE ALFRED FOUNDATION CHARITY FUNDS DRIVE OFF TO A GOOD START!

HERE IS THE BATARANG THAT HELPED ME SAVE ROBIN'S LIFE IN THE CASE OF THE "TWO-WAY GEM CAPER"!* HOW MUCH AM I BID FOR IT?

*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE BATMAN #164.

BEFORE A BID CAN BE MADE--A HAND BURSTS OUT OF THE AUCTIONEER'S STAND AND...

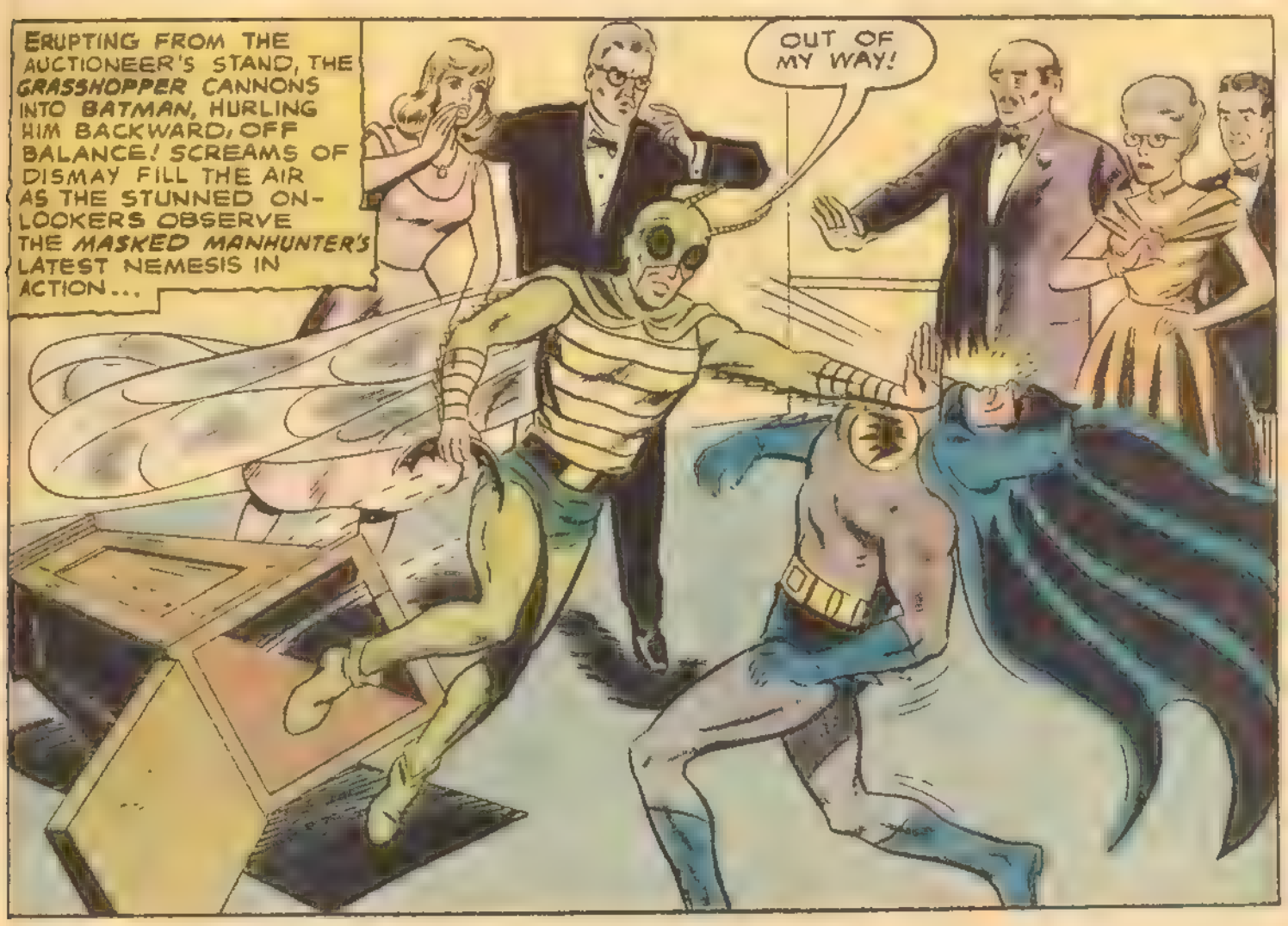
I'LL TAKE THAT BATARANG, BATMAN! ANOTHER OF YOUR POSSESSIONS TO ADD TO MY LIST!

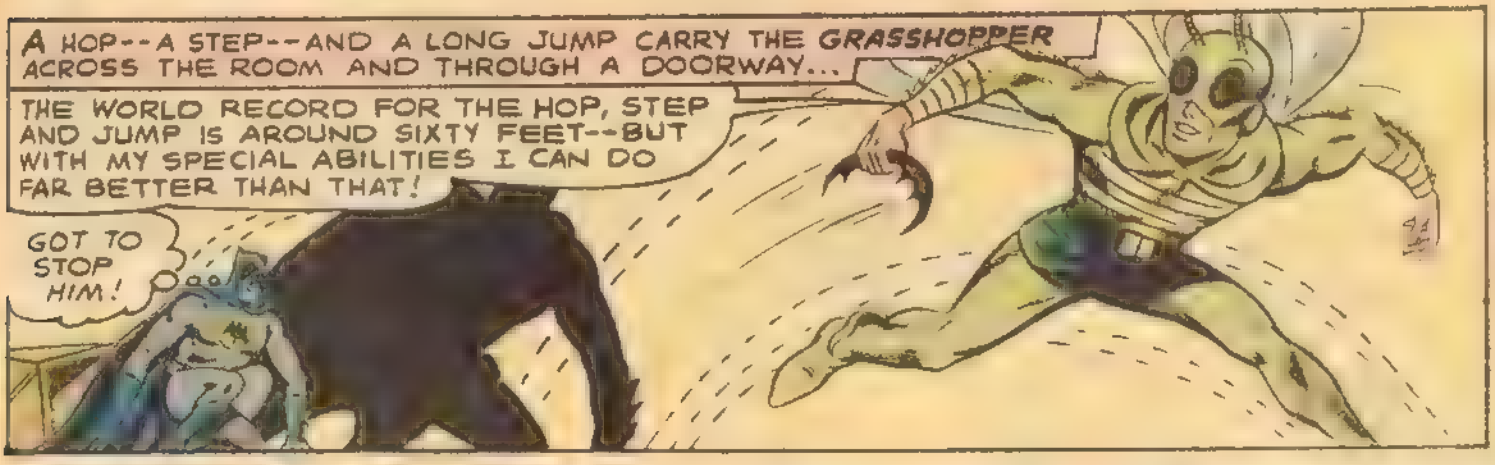
STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING! 6

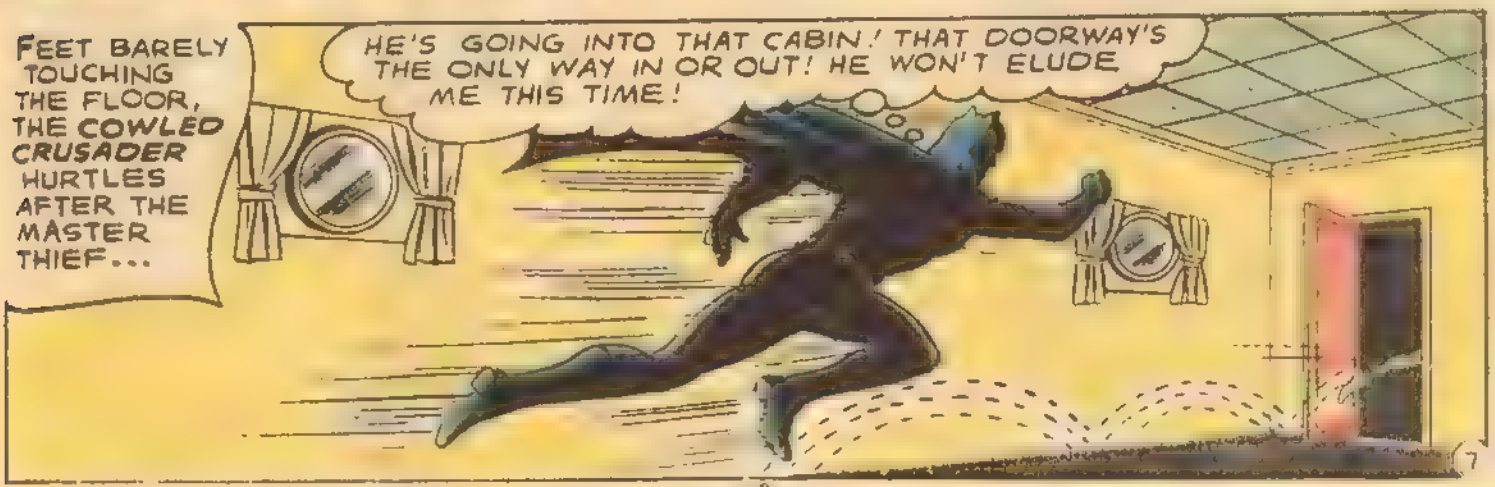
SUPERMAN THE MAN OF STEEL - WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS HERO

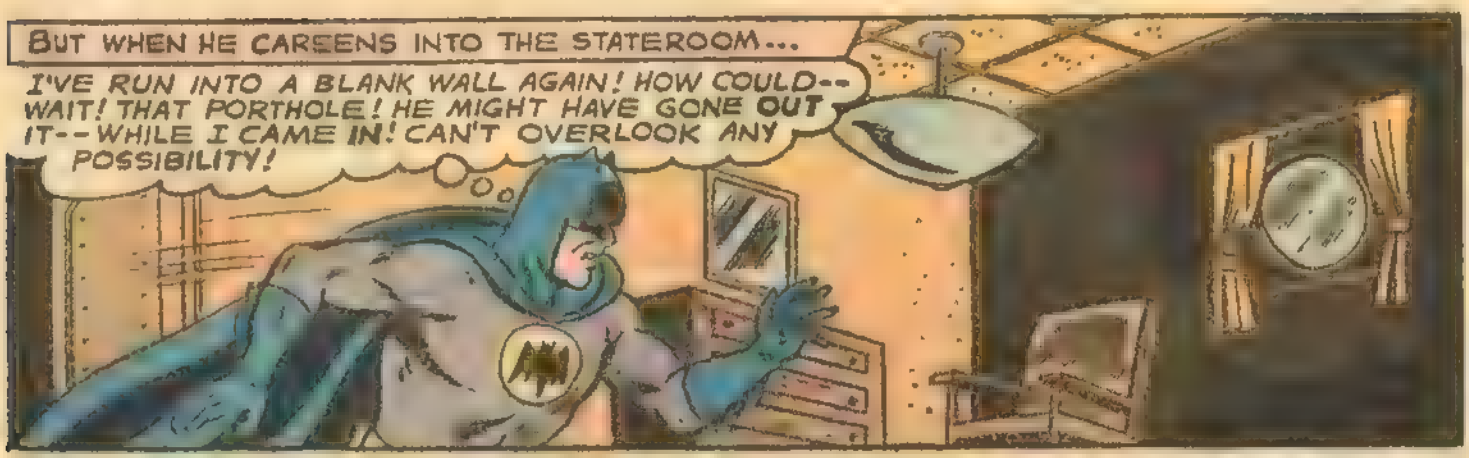
APPEARS IN
SUPERMAN
LOIS LANE
JIMMY OLSEN
ACTION COMICS
WORLD'S FINEST COMICS
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

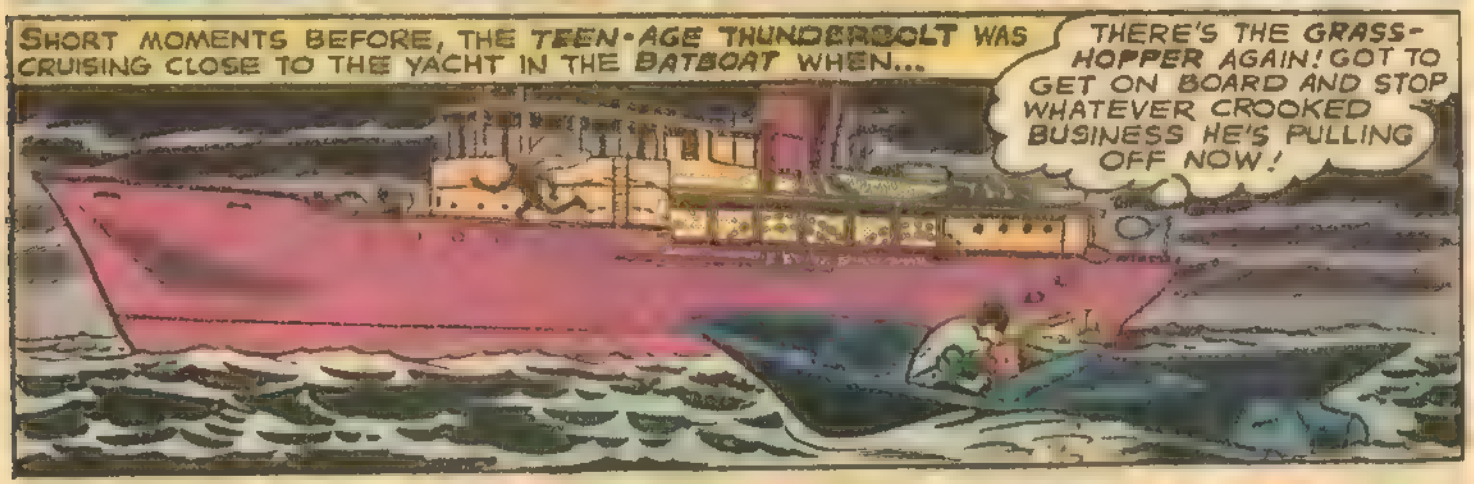
THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN


ERUPTING FROM THE AUCTIONEER'S STAND, THE GRASSHOPPER CANNONS INTO BATMAN, HURLING HIM BACKWARD, OFF BALANCE! SCREAMS OF DISMAY FILL THE AIR AS THE STUNNED ON-LOOKERS OBSERVE THE MASKED MANHUNTER'S LATEST NEMESIS IN ACTION...
OUT OF MY WAY!

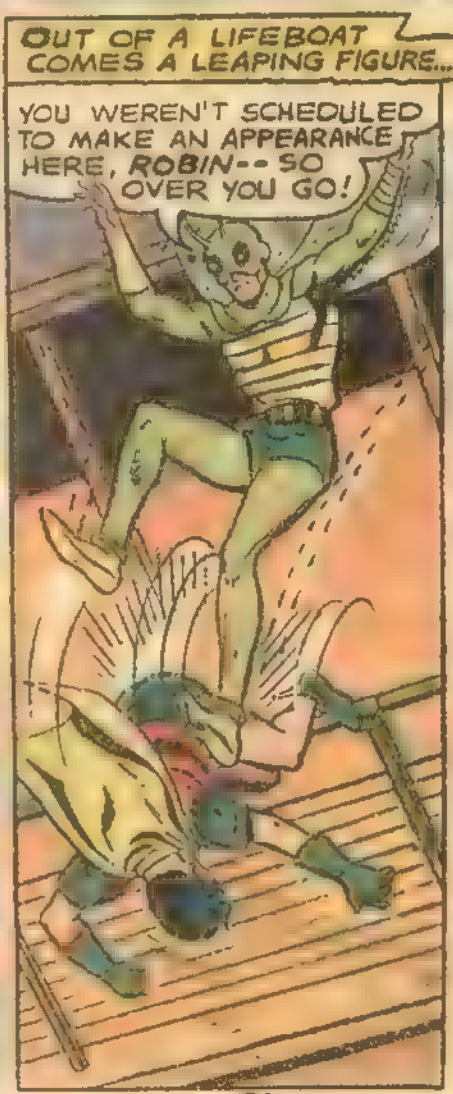

A HOP--A STEP--AND A LONG JUMP CARRY THE GRASSHOPPER ACROSS THE ROOM AND THROUGH A DOORWAY...
THE WORLD RECORD FOR THE HOP, STEP AND JUMP IS AROUND SIXTY FEET--BUT WITH MY SPECIAL ABILITIES I CAN DO FAR BETTER THAN THAT!
GOT TO STOP HIM!


FEET BARELY TOUCHING THE FLOOR, THE COWLED CRUSADER HURTLES AFTER THE MASTER THIEF...
HE'S GOING INTO THAT CABIN! THAT DOORWAY'S THE ONLY WAY IN OR OUT! HE WON'T ELUDE ME THIS TIME!

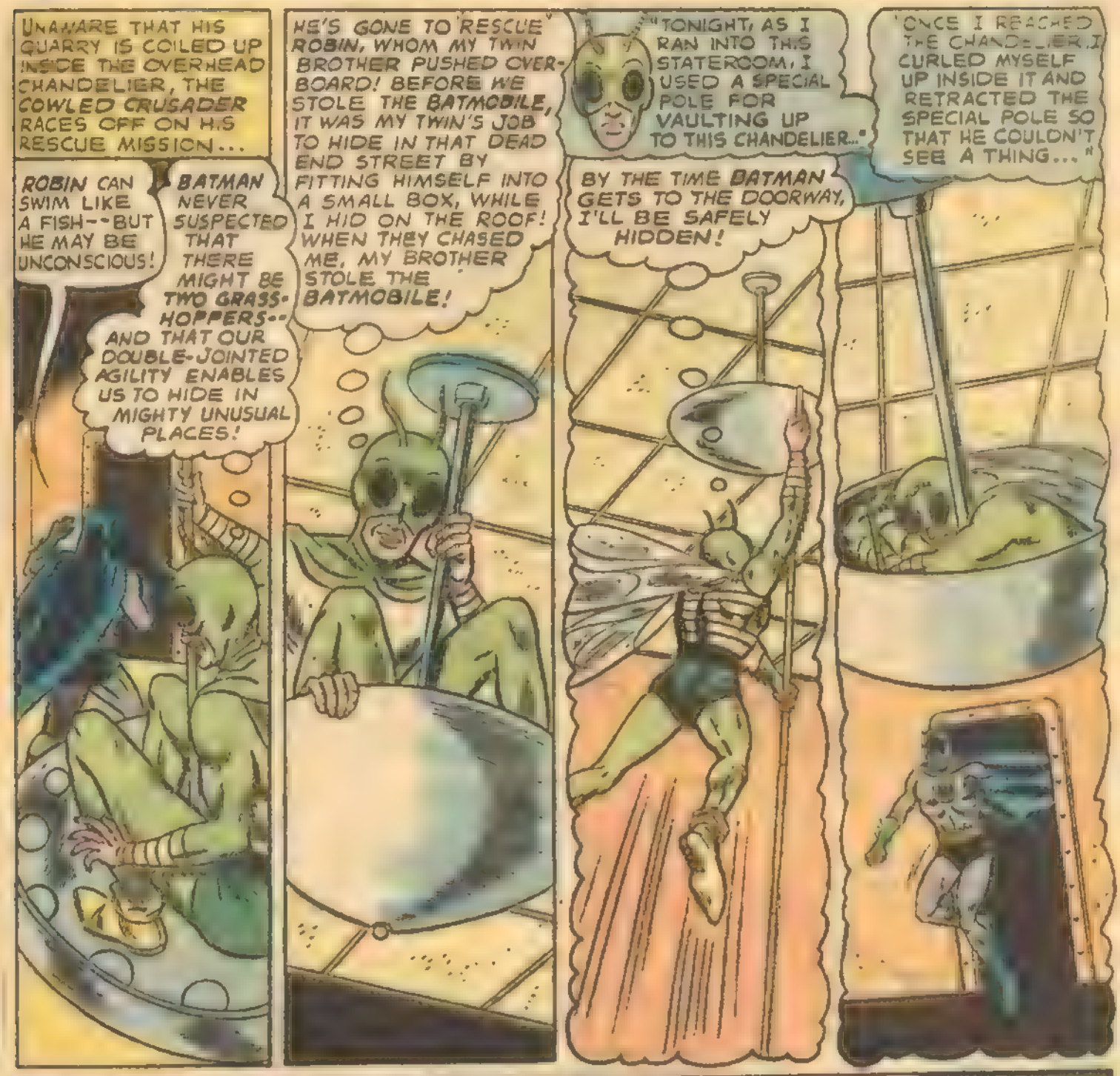

BUT WHEN HE CAREENS INTO THE STATEROOM...
I'VE RUN INTO A BLANK WALL AGAIN! HOW COULD-- WAIT! THAT PORTHOLE! HE MIGHT HAVE GONE OUT IT--WHILE I CAME IN! CAN'T OVERLOOK ANY POSSIBILITY!

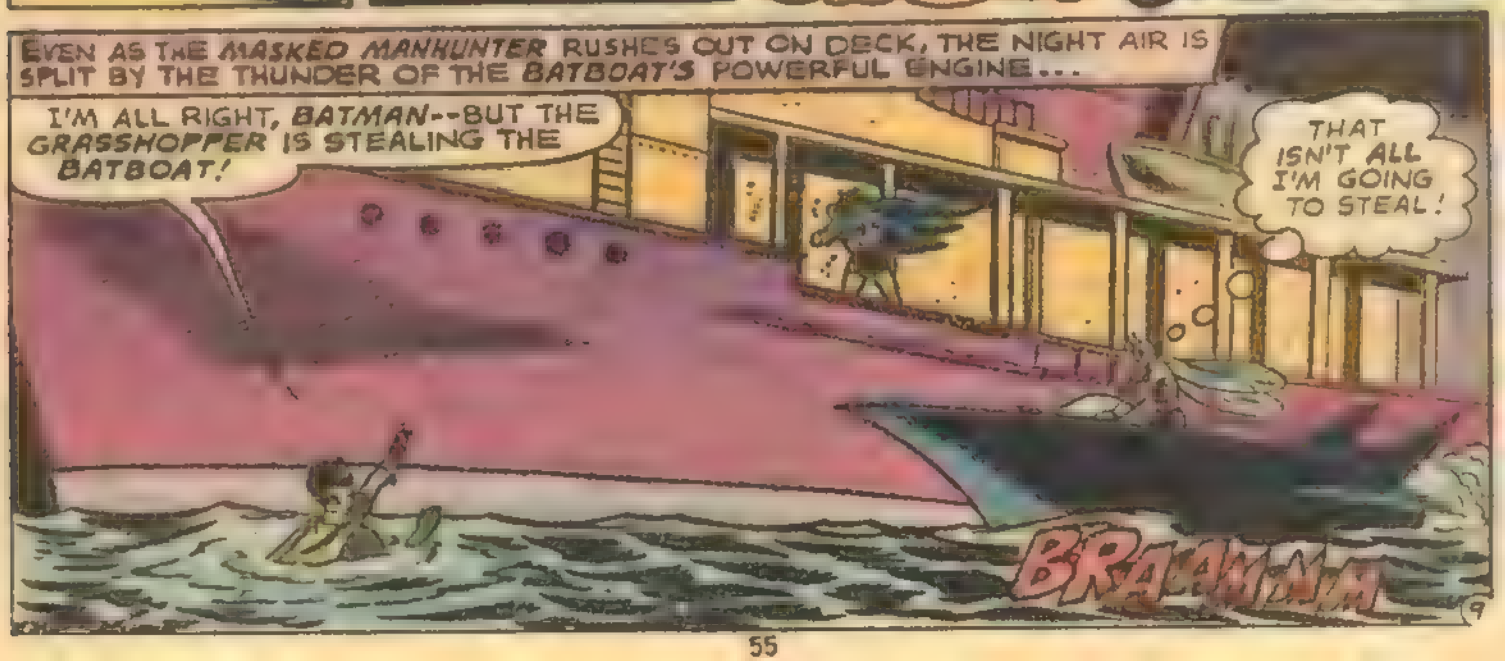

SHORT MOMENTS BEFORE, THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT WAS CRUISING CLOSE TO THE YACHT IN THE BATBOAT WHEN...
THERE'S THE GRASS-HOPPER AGAIN! GOT TO GET ON BOARD AND STOP WHATEVER CROOKED BUSINESS HE'S PULLING OFF NOW!

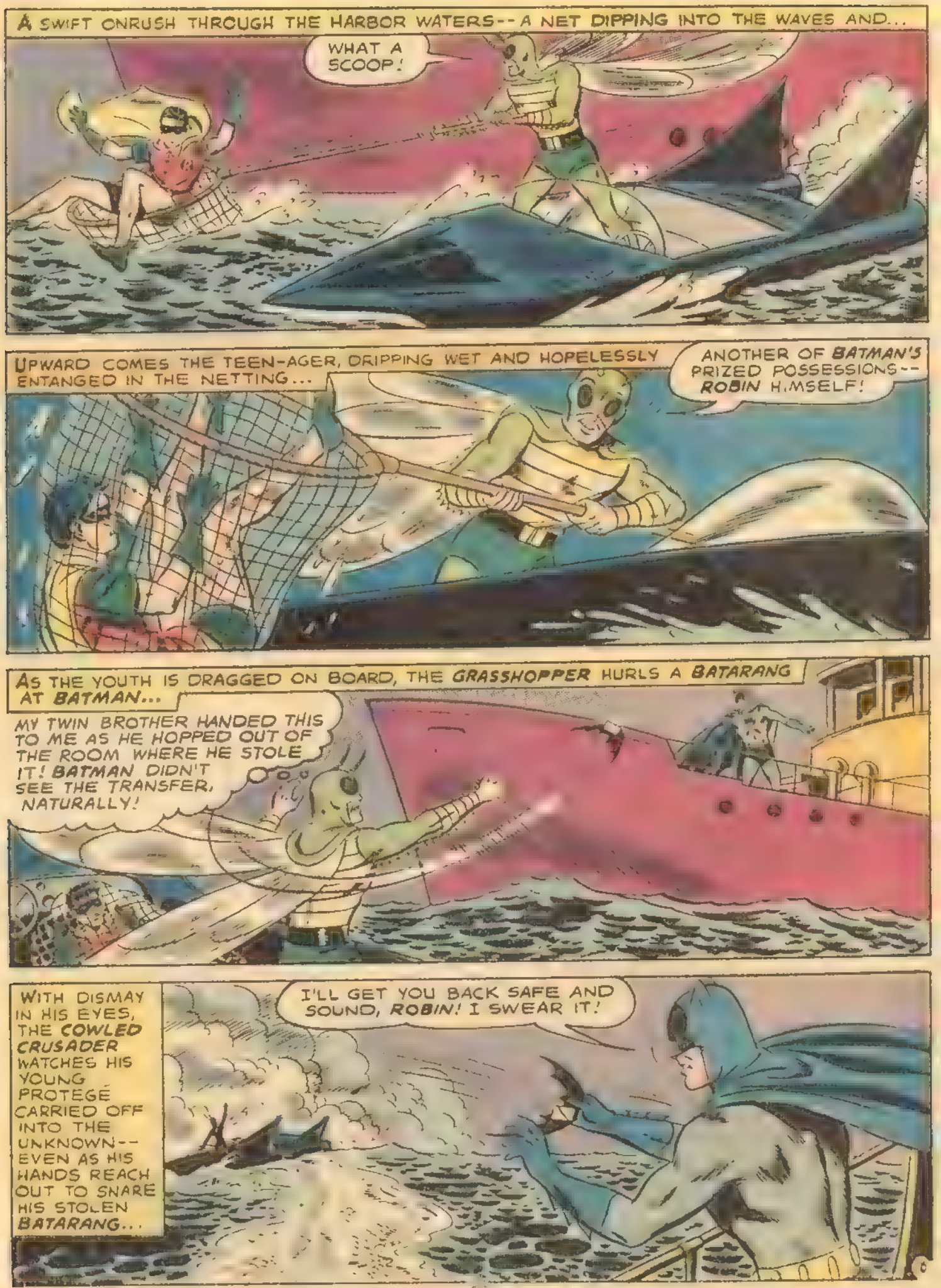
SWIFTLY CLIMBING UP THE SIDE OF THE SHIP, ROBIN RACES FORWARD...
THIS SHOULD BE A CINCH! HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M HERE!


OUT OF A LIFEBOAT COMES A LEAPING FIGURE...
YOU WEREN'T SCHEDULED TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE HERE, ROBIN-- SO OVER YOU GO!

AND AS THE BOY WONDER PLUMMETS TOWARD THE WATER--BATMAN'S FACE APPEARS IN THE PORTHOLE...
ROBIN!

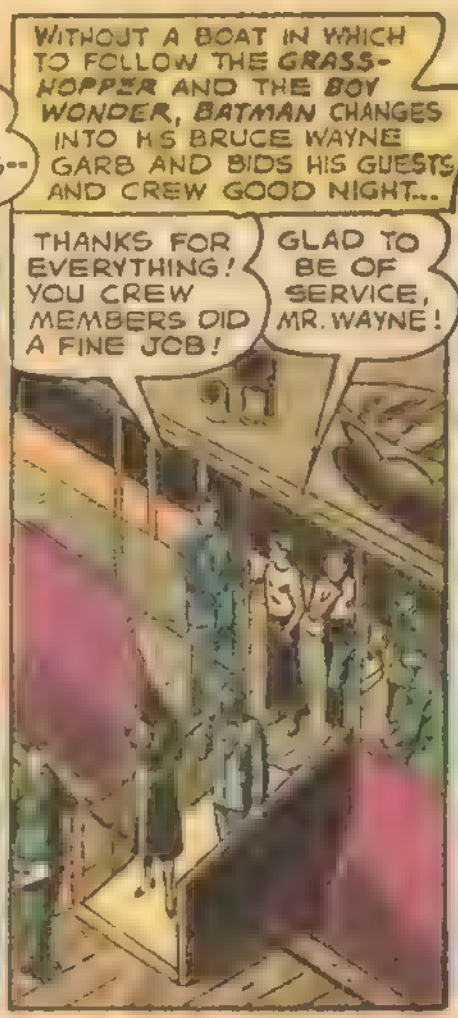

UNAWARE THAT HIS QUARRY IS COILED UP INSIDE THE OVERHEAD CHANDELIER, THE COWLED CRUSADER RACES OFF ON HIS RESCUE MISSION...
ROBIN CAN SWIM LIKE A FISH--BUT HE MAY BE UNCONSCIOUS!
BATMAN NEVER SUSPECTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE TWO GRASS-HOPPERS--
AND THAT OUR DOUBLE-JOINTED AGILITY ENABLES US TO HIDE IN MIGHTY UNUSUAL PLACES!
HE'S GONE TO RESCUE ROBIN, WHOM MY TWIN BROTHER PUSHED OVER-BOARD! BEFORE WE STOLE THE BATMOBILE, IT WAS MY TWIN'S JOB TO HIDE IN THAT DEAD END STREET BY FITTING HIMSELF INTO A SMALL BOX, WHILE I HID ON THE ROOF! WHEN THEY CHASED ME, MY BROTHER STOLE THE BATMOBILE!
"TONIGHT, AS I RAN INTO THIS STATEROOM, I USED A SPECIAL POLE FOR VAULTING UP TO THIS CHANDELIER..."
BY THE TIME BATMAN GETS TO THE DOORWAY, I'LL BE SAFELY HIDDEN!
"ONCE I REACHED THE CHANDELIER, I CURLED MYSELF UP INSIDE IT AND RETRACTED THE SPECIAL POLE SO THAT HE COULDN'T SEE A THING..."


EVEN AS THE MASKED MANHUNTER RUSHES OUT ON DECK, THE NIGHT AIR IS SPLIT BY THE THUNDER OF THE BATBOAT'S POWERFUL ENGINE...
I'M ALL RIGHT, BATMAN--BUT THE GRASSHOPPER IS STEALING THE BATBOAT!
THAT ISN'T ALL I'M GOING TO STEAL!
BRAAAAAM
9

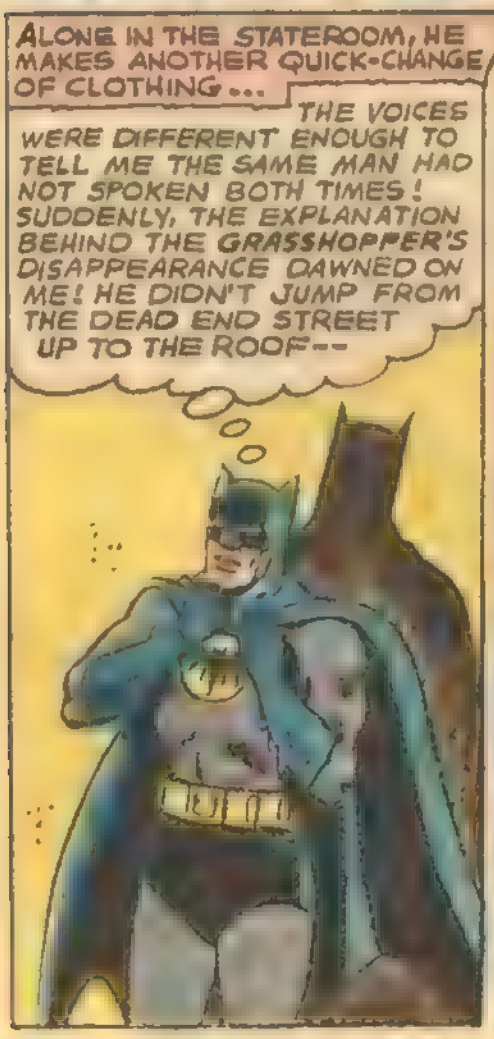

A SWIFT ONRUSH THROUGH THE HARBOR WATERS--A NET DIPPING INTO THE WAVES AND...
WHAT A SCOOP!
UPWARD COMES THE TEEN-AGER, DRIPPING WET AND HOPELESSLY ENTANGED IN THE NETTING...
ANOTHER OF BATMAN'S PRIZED POSSESSIONS--ROBIN HIMSELF!
AS THE YOUTH IS DRAGGED ON BOARD, THE GRASSHOPPER HURLS A BATARANG AT BATMAN...
MY TWIN BROTHER HANDED THIS TO ME AS HE HOPPED OUT OF THE ROOM WHERE HE STOLE IT! BATMAN DIDN'T SEE THE TRANSFER, NATURALLY!
WITH DISMAY IN HIS EYES, THE COWLED CRUSADER WATCHES HIS YOUNG PROTEGE CARRIED OFF INTO THE UNKNOWN--EVEN AS HIS HANDS REACH OUT TO SNARE HIS STOLEN BATARANG...
I'LL GET YOU BACK SAFE AND SOUND, ROBIN! I SWEAR IT!

THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN

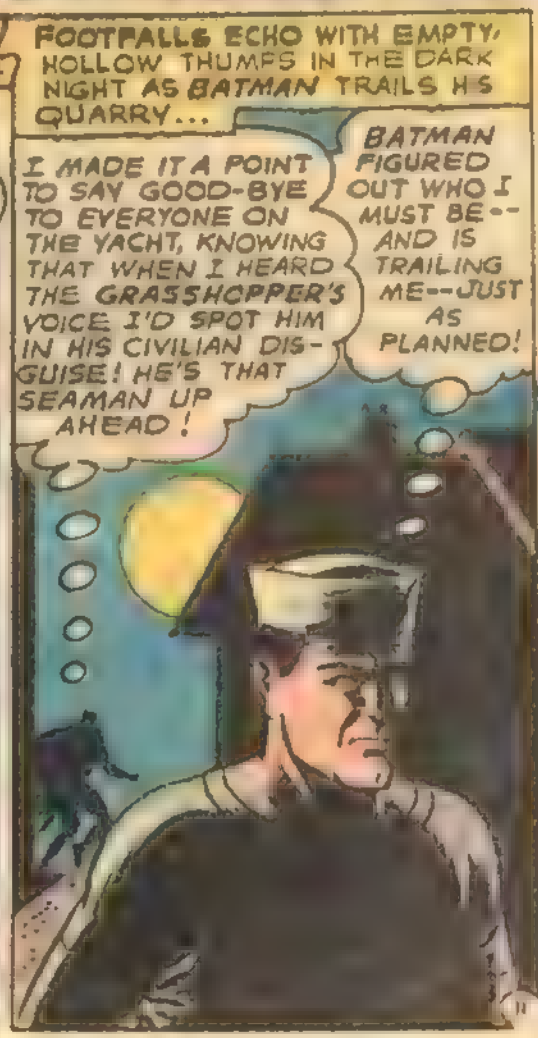
HIS LIPS TIGHTEN GRIMLY AS HE READS A NOTE ATTACHED TO THE BATARANG...
"BATMAN! I HAVE STOLEN TWO MORE OF YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS--THE BATBOAT AND ROBIN! ARE YOU BEGINNING TO SUSPECT WHAT MY NEXT PRIZE WILL BE?"

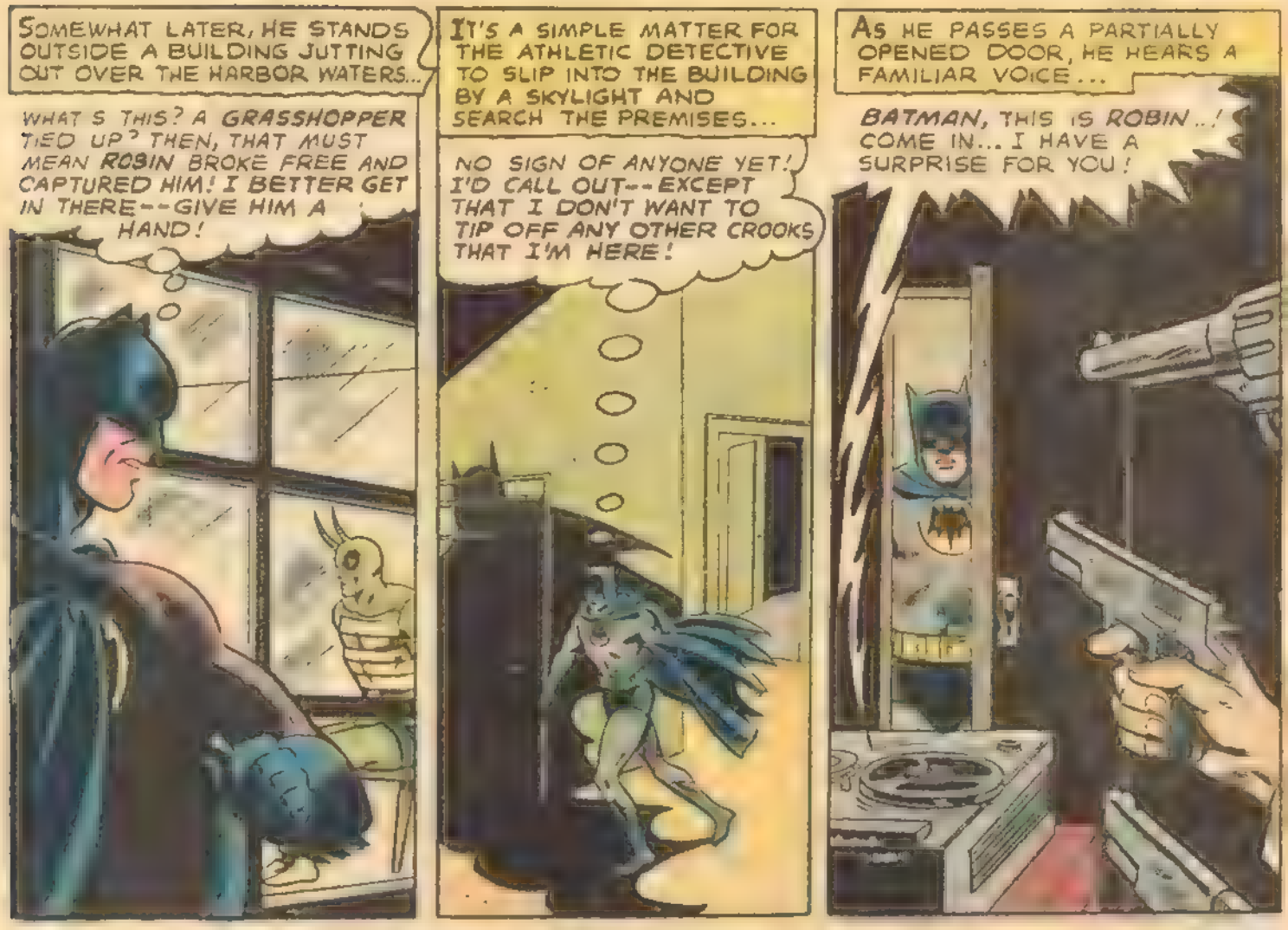

WITHOUT A BOAT IN WHICH TO FOLLOW THE GRASSHOPPER AND THE BOY WONDER, BATMAN CHANGES INTO HIS BRUCE WAYNE GARB AND BIDS HIS GUESTS AND CREW GOOD NIGHT...
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! YOU CREW MEMBERS DID A FINE JOB!
GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE, MR. WAYNE!

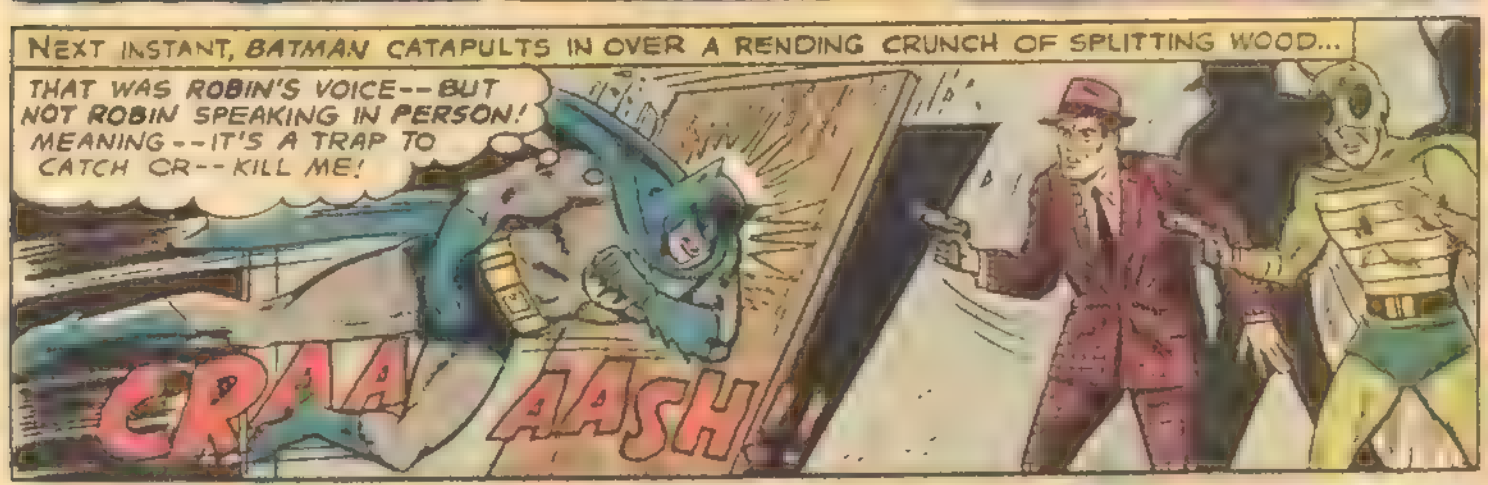
I HAVE ONLY ONE CLUE TO THE GRASSHOPPER--BUT AT LEAST THAT CLUE IS ENOUGH TO TELL ME HE IS--TWO MEN! I HEARD "HIM" SPEAK TWICE--ONCE ON THE ROOF ABOVE THE DEAD END STREET AND AGAIN--AS HE WAS STEALING THE BATARANG!

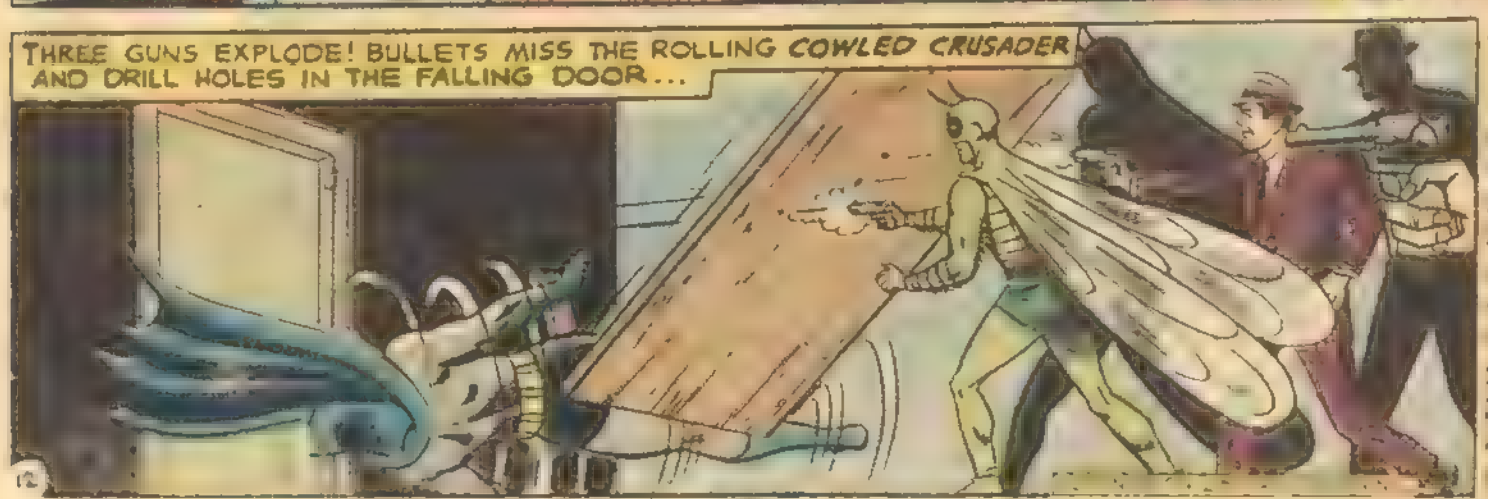

ALONE IN THE STATEROOM, HE MAKES ANOTHER QUICK-CHANGE OF CLOTHING...
THE VOICES WERE DIFFERENT ENOUGH TO TELL ME THE SAME MAN HAD NOT SPOKEN BOTH TIMES! SUDDENLY, THE EXPLANATION BEHIND THE GRASSHOPPER'S DISAPPEARANCE DAWNED ON ME! HE DIDN'T JUMP FROM THE DEAD END STREET UP TO THE ROOF--

LEAVING THE SHIP, HE WALKS THROUGH DARKENED STREETS...
HE HID IN SOME SMALL CONTAINER, JUST AS HIS TWIN HID SOMEWHERE IN THE STATEROOM! SO--WHEN ONE GRASSHOPPER LEFT IN THE BATBOAT--THE OTHER ONE HAD TO REMAIN ON BOARD SHIP!

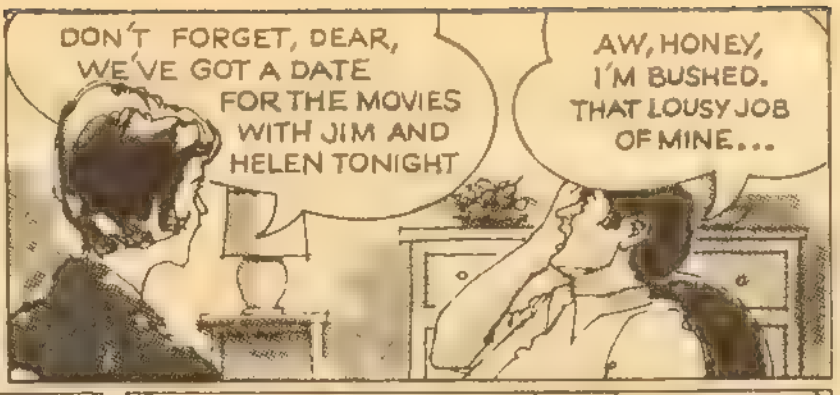

FOOTFALLS ECHO WITH EMPTY, HOLLOW THUMPS IN THE DARK NIGHT AS BATMAN TRAILS HIS QUARRY...
I MADE IT A POINT TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO EVERYONE ON THE YACHT, KNOWING THAT WHEN I HEARD THE GRASSHOPPER'S VOICE I'D SPOT HIM IN HIS CIVILIAN DISGUISE! HE'S THAT SEAMAN UP AHEAD!
BATMAN FIGURED OUT WHO I MUST BE--AND IS TRAILING ME--JUST AS PLANNED!

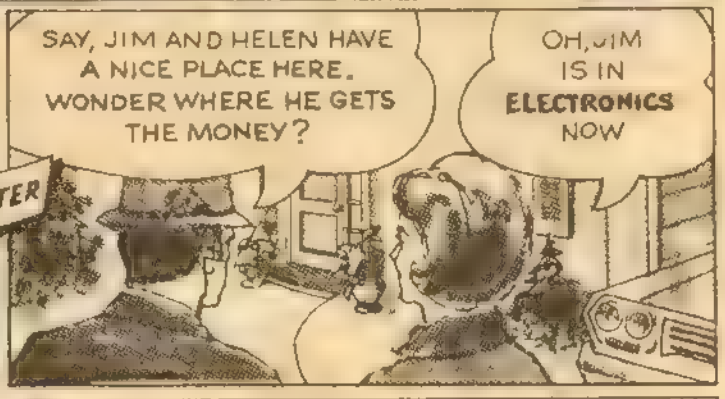

SOMEWHAT LATER, HE STANDS OUTSIDE A BUILDING JUTTING OUT OVER THE HARBOR WATERS...
WHAT'S THIS? A GRASSHOPPER TIED UP? THEN, THAT MUST MEAN ROBIN BROKE FREE AND CAPTURED HIM! I BETTER GET IN THERE--GIVE HIM A HAND!
IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER FOR THE ATHLETIC DETECTIVE TO SLIP INTO THE BUILDING BY A SKYLIGHT AND SEARCH THE PREMISES...
NO SIGN OF ANYONE YET! I'D CALL OUT--EXCEPT THAT I DON'T WANT TO TIP OFF ANY OTHER CROOKS THAT I'M HERE!
AS HE PASSES A PARTIALLY OPENED DOOR, HE HEARS A FAMILIAR VOICE...
BATMAN, THIS IS ROBIN...! COME IN... I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

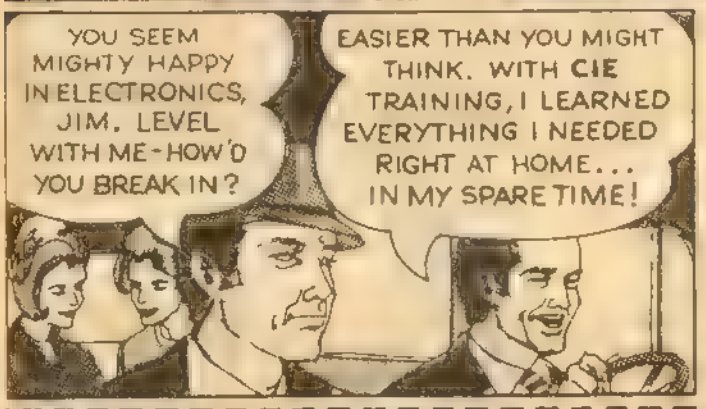

NEXT INSTANT, BATMAN CATAPULTS IN OVER A RENDING CRUNCH OF SPLITTING WOOD...
THAT WAS ROBIN'S VOICE--BUT NOT ROBIN SPEAKING IN PERSON! MEANING--IT'S A TRAP TO CATCH OR--KILL ME!
CRAA AASH!

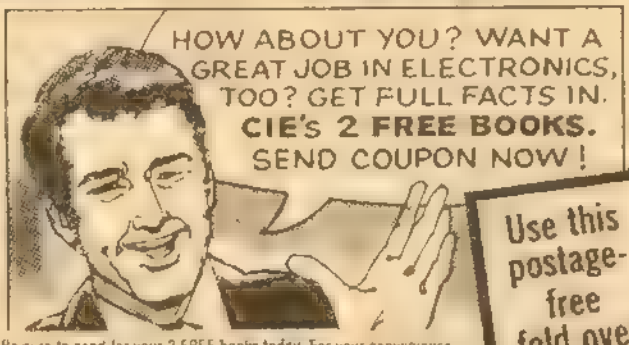

THREE GUNS EXPLODE! BULLETS MISS THE ROLLING COWLED CRUSADER AND DRILL HOLES IN THE FALLING DOOR...
12

"I'm sick and tired of my Job!"






YOU SEEM MIGHTY HAPPY IN ELECTRONICS, JIM. LEVEL WITH ME - HOW'D YOU BREAK IN?
EASIER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK. WITH CIE TRAINING, I LEARNED EVERYTHING I NEEDED RIGHT AT HOME... IN MY SPARE TIME!



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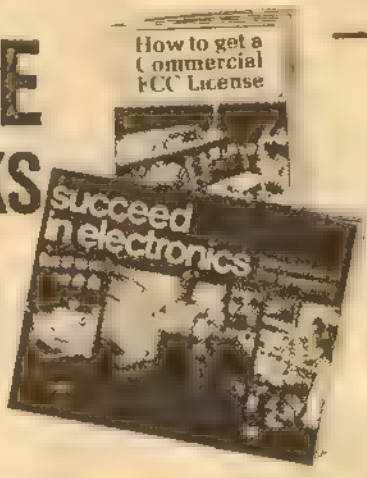

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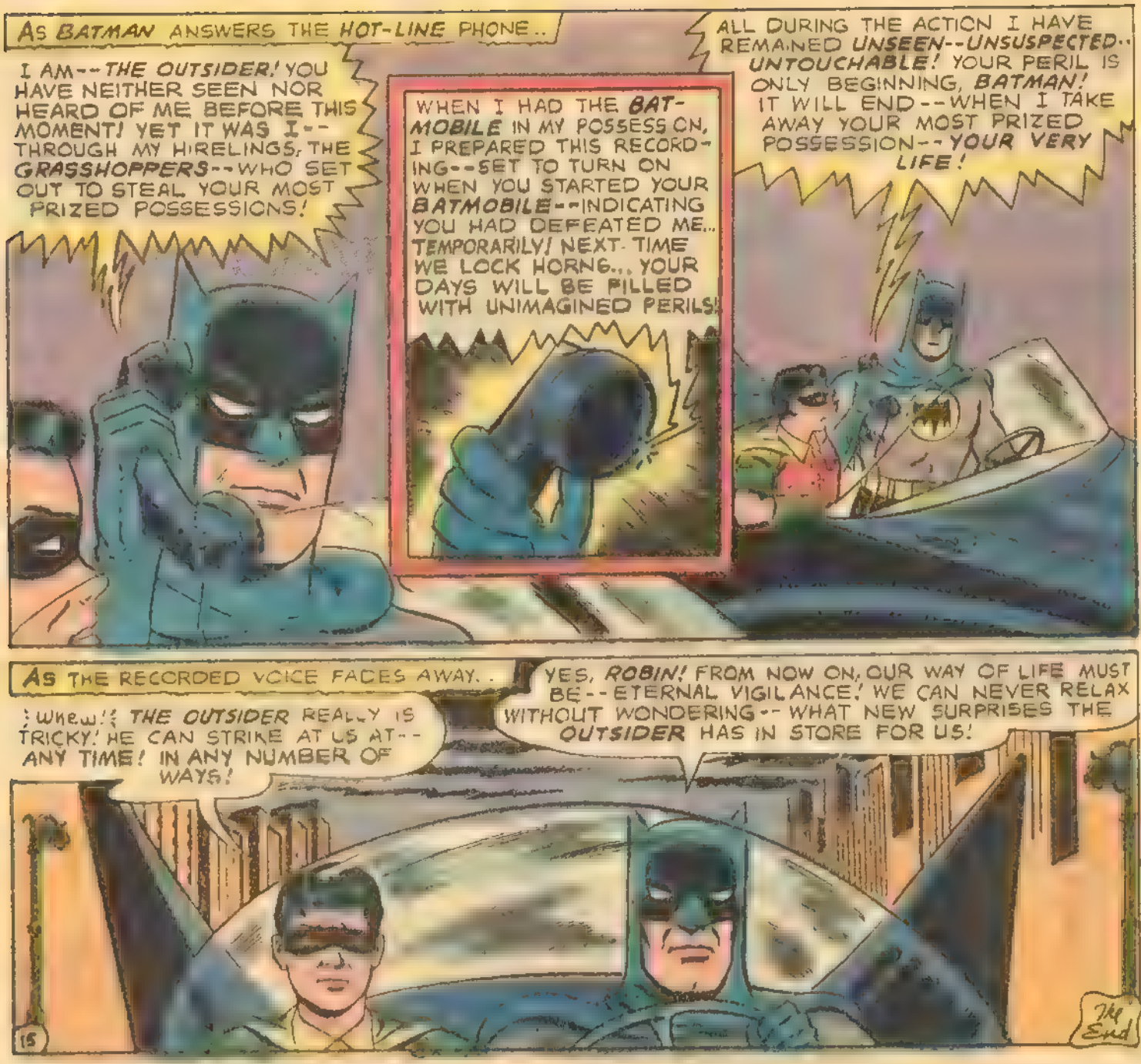
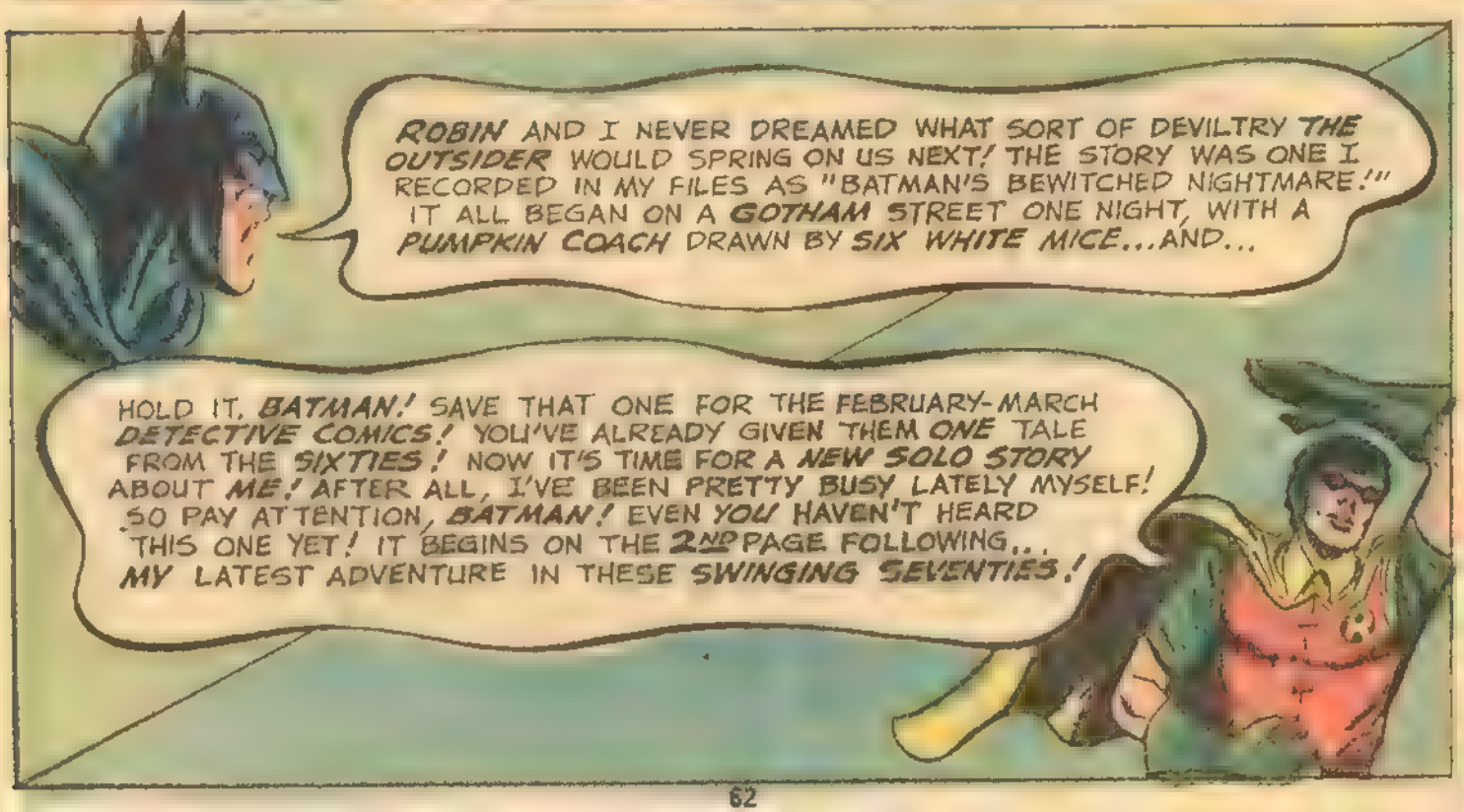
LIKE A BATTERING RAM, THE MASKED MANHUNTER CANNONADES INTO THE GRASSHOPPER...
THE GRASSHOPPER "TIED UP" OUTSIDE WAS ONLY A TRICK TO LURE ME HERE AND MAKE ME THINK ROBIN MIGHT BE FREE!
LIKE AN ANGRY STALLION, HE KICKS BACK AND UPWARD...
BUT HE'LL BE FREE IN A MINUTE OR TWO -- I PROMISE THAT!
THEN HE DROPS FLOORWARD AND LOCKS HIS LEGS ABOUT THE CALF OF A GUNMAN, TOPPLING HIM SIDEWAYS AND INTO THE GRASSHOPPER...
HE COMES TO HIS FEET IN ONE EASY MOTION -- THAT SENDS ANOTHER GUNMAN HARD INTO A CHAIR...
THEN THE COWLED CRUSADER RAMS THE GRASSHOPPER -- EVEN AS A SECOND GRASSHOPPER STANDS IN THE DOORWAY, GUN IN HAND...
OOOF!
ONE OF US WAS BOUND TO GET BATMAN -- AND IT MIGHT AS WELL BE ME!
13

THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN

BUT THE MASKED MANHUNTER HAS BEEN EXPECTING THE NEW ARRIVAL AND SO...
YOU GOT HERE JUST WHEN I FIGURED YOU WOULD-- SINCE YOU REALLY WEREN'T TIED UP AT ALL!
A SLEDGE-HAMMER OF A FIST PILE-DRIVES FORWARD .
THAT'LL KEEP YOU PUT TILL I CAN FIND ROBIN!
A QUICK SEARCH OF THE PREMISES REVEALS ROBIN-- TOGETHER WITH THE STOLEN BATMOBILE AND BATBOAT...
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU KNEW IT WASN'T ME INVITING YOU IN FOR THAT "SURPRISE"!
AS SOON AS YOU SAID, "THIS IS ROBIN"-- I BECAME SUSPICIOUS! YOU'D KNOW THAT I WOULD RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE. SO THERE WAS NO NECESSITY TO DENY YOURSELF! THE GRASSHOPPER WANTED TO BE SO SURE I'D THINK IT WAS YOU-- HE BECAME TOO CAREFUL AND GAVE THE WHOLE SHOW AWAY!
AFTER THE POLICE ARRIVE AND TAKE AWAY THEIR PRISONERS...
BUT HOW DID THEY EVER GET THAT MESSAGE ON TAPE-- IN MY VOICE?
MY GUESS IS THAT WHEN THEY HELD YOU PRISONER HERE, THEY BUGGED THE ROOM AND SLANTED THEIR QUESTIONS TO MAKE YOU ANSWER WITH THE KEY WORDS THEY NEEDED! BY SPLICING AND CUTTING, AND USING SOME HIGH-FIDELITY EQUIPMENT, THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE A PERFECT REPRODUCTION OF YOUR VOICE!
WE'LL COME BACK FOR THE BATBOAT TOMORROW! WHAT PUZZLES ME IS-- WHY WOULD THE GRASSHOPPERS STEAL FROM ME? THEY COULD SCARCELY EXPECT TO PROFIT BY IT!
THE HOT-LINE PHONE IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT! DON'T TELL ME POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS ANOTHER CASE FOR US SO SOON!
BRRRNNNGG!


AS BATMAN ANSWERS THE HOT-LINE PHONE..
I AM--THE OUTSIDER! YOU HAVE NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD OF ME BEFORE THIS MOMENT! YET IT WAS I--THROUGH MY HIRELINGS, THE GRASSHOPPERS--WHO SET OUT TO STEAL YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS!
WHEN I HAD THE BAT-MOBILE IN MY POSSESSION, I PREPARED THIS RECORD-ING--SET TO TURN ON WHEN YOU STARTED YOUR BATMOBILE--INDICATING YOU HAD DEFEATED ME.. TEMPORARILY! NEXT TIME WE LOCK HORNS... YOUR DAYS WILL BE FILLED WITH UNIMAGINED PERILS!
ALL DURING THE ACTION I HAVE REMAINED UNSEEN--UNSUSPECTED.. UNTOUCHABLE! YOUR PERIL IS ONLY BEGINNING, BATMAN! IT WILL END--WHEN I TAKE AWAY YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION--YOUR VERY LIFE!

AS THE RECORDED VOICE FACES AWAY..
;WHEW!; THE OUTSIDER REALLY IS TRICKY! HE CAN STRIKE AT US AT--ANY TIME! IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS!
YES, ROBIN! FROM NOW ON, OUR WAY OF LIFE MUST BE--ETERNAL VIGILANCE! WE CAN NEVER RELAX WITHOUT WONDERING--WHAT NEW SURPRISES THE OUTSIDER HAS IN STORE FOR US!
15
The End


ROBIN AND I NEVER DREAMED WHAT SORT OF DEVILTRY THE OUTSIDER WOULD SPRING ON US NEXT! THE STORY WAS ONE I RECORDED IN MY FILES AS "BATMAN'S BEWITCHED NIGHTMARE!" IT ALL BEGAN ON A GOTHAM STREET ONE NIGHT, WITH A PUMPKIN COACH DRAWN BY SIX WHITE MICE...AND...
HOLD IT, BATMAN! SAVE THAT ONE FOR THE FEBRUARY-MARCH DETECTIVE COMICS! YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN THEM ONE TALE FROM THE SIXTIES! NOW IT'S TIME FOR A NEW SOLO STORY ABOUT ME! AFTER ALL, I'VE BEEN PRETTY BUSY LATELY MYSELF! SO PAY ATTENTION, BATMAN! EVEN YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THIS ONE YET! IT BEGINS ON THE 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING... MY LATEST ADVENTURE IN THESE SWINGING SEVENTIES!

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TROUBLE, GUYS!--THE CAR'S STALLED OUT!
THAT'S WHAT WE GET FOR USING A STOLEN CAR!
AS THE THREE LEAP TOWARD A TAXI-STAND...
HEY, THAT'S MY CAB!
WAS YOUR CAB, DUDE!
415 SOUTH STREET IN NEW CARTHAGE, CABBY--AN' DON'T SPARE THE HORSEPOWER!
TAXI
LET'S GET GOIN'--LOOK WHO'S COMIN'!
THE NEXT MOMENT, THROUGH A DEADLY DRIZZLE OF BULLETS FLIES...
ROBIN
THE TEEN WONDER
TAXI
"THE PHENOMENAL MEMORY OF LUKE GRAHAM!"
STORY BY: ELLIOT MAGGIN
ART BY DICK DILLIN & MURPHY ANDERSON
EDITING BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
1

PANICKY CRIMINALS ARE EASY MARKS FOR A TEEN TITAN--UNLESS A STRAY BULLET HITS HIS ROPE IN MID-SWING...
SNAP
IN WHICH CASE HE HAS PROBLEMS...
LUKE GRAHAM... LOOKS HURT!
LUKE--HOW'D YOU GET MIXED UP IN ALL THIS?
IN... WHAT? LAST THING I REMEMBER IS GRABBING A CAB TO GET BACK TO CAMPUS, AND... POW!
NEXT DAY, IT IS THE SAME STORY THAT LUKE TELLS HIS HUDSON UNIVERSITY CLASSMATE--DICK GRAYSON, ALIAS ROBIN...
I MEAN, IF I HEARD ANYTHING THE CROOKS SAID THAT MIGHT HAVE HELPED ROBIN--IT'S LOST TO THE WORLD NOW!
TOO BAD YOU CAN'T REMEMBER...
AND WHEN THE DUO ENTERS PROFESSOR RAYMOND'S CLASS...
WELL, MR. GRAHAM--I'M SURPRISED YOU'VE SHOWN YOUR FACE HERE TODAY!
M-ME? WHA--
YOU'RE DOUBTLESS EXPECTING TO GET A GRADE FOR THIS PLAGIARIZED REPORT YOU HANDED IN LAST WEEK--?
MY PAPER ON THE BEGINNING OF THE CHINESE IRON INDUSTRY?
BUT, PROFESSOR--I WROTE IT ALL ON MY OWN!
ACTION ON 2ND PAGE

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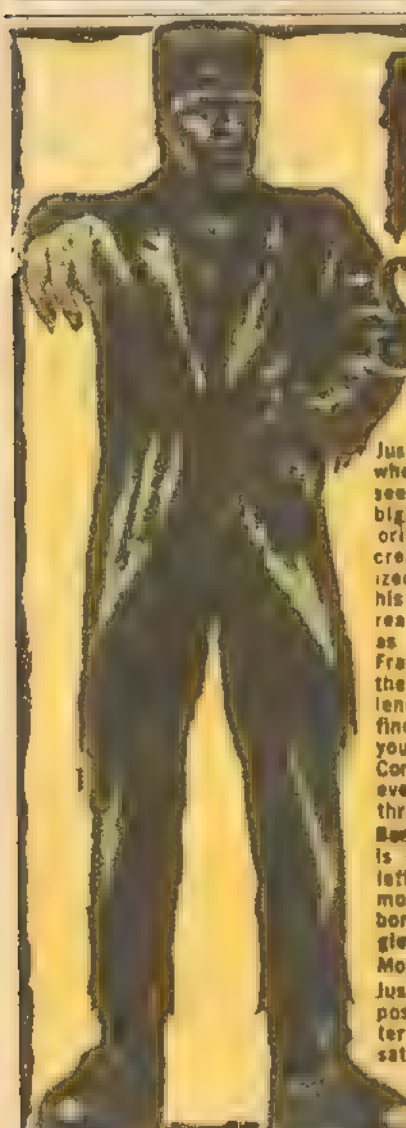

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THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN THE INFORMATION...
...BY COPYING YOUR PAPER DIRECTLY FROM THIS BOOK AFTER "BORROWING" IT FROM MY PERSONAL LIBRARY!
B-BUT I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING LIKE THAT, PROFESSOR RAYMOND!
NO MORE ARGUMENTS, GRAHAM! I BOUGHT THIS COPY WHEN I WAS IN ASIA, AND IT'S NEVER BEEN AVAILABLE IN THIS COUNTRY!
AFTER A LESS-THAN-COMFORTABLE HOUR IN THE CROWDED CLASSROOM..
LUKE--HOW ABOUT GIVING A FLAT-FOOTED FELLOW STUDENT A LIFT TO HIS BOARDING HOUSE?
SURE, DICK --HOP IN!
I THINK I'D DO WELL TO TALK TO LUKE ABOUT THIS REPORT HE GOT THROWN BACK AT HIM!
...AND LUKE DOES TALK...
YOU KNOW WHAT A WEIRD MEMORY I'VE GOT, DICK...HOW SOMETIMES I CAN REMEMBER THINGS FROM WAY BACK...
... AND OTHER TIMES, CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND ME!
"LIKE ONE DAY JUST LAST WEEK-END..."
--BUT IT'S AFTER ELEVEN! I'M LATE FOR MY CLASS IN--
THERE AIN'T NO CLASSES HERE TODAY, SONNY!--IT'S SUNDAY!
IT IS? OHH, I FORGOT..
"...AND THEN LAST WINTER, WHEN STARLY'S CAR WENT INTO A SKID ON THE SNOWY TURNPIKE AND NO ONE KNEW HOW TO GET OUT OF IT BEFORE WE GOT HIT BY ANOTHER CAR..."
"IF YOU START TO SKID, DO NOT BRAKE OR ABRUPTLY DECELERATE. STEER GENTLY INTO THE SKID, AS YOU RE-COVER CONTROL, GENTLY STRAIGHTEN THE WHEELS."
OH, WOW... LUKE'S QUOTING WORD-FOR-WORD FROM A DRIVER'S MANUAL HE READ THREE YEARS AGO! WHAT A PHENOMENAL MEMORY!
HMM...SEEMS LUKE'S MEMORY WORKS BEST UNDER STRESS!
WHICH MEANS THERE'S AN OUTSIDE CHANCE IT COULD HELP ME TRACK DOWN THOSE RACEWAY ROBBERS!

THAT NIGHT, A FURTIVE, NIGHT-BLANKETED FORM JIMMIES OPEN A DORMITORY WINDOW AND...
I HATE SNEAKING INTO LUKE'S ROOM LIKE THIS, BUT IF DICK GRAYSON ASKED HIM THESE QUESTIONS, MY SECRET I.D. WOULD BE SUSPECT...
BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING LUKE'S CONSCIOUS MIND WOULD REMEMBER!
I'M TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT LUKE COULD SLEEP THROUGH THE END OF THE WORLD!
EARTHQUAKE!-- EARTHQUAKE!!
THE BUILDING'S FALLING IN!
UNPFF!-- LEMME SLEEP... TELL THE EARTHQUAKE TO GO 'WAY!
OH, LUKE-- SOMETHING HIT YOU ON THE HEAD...
JUST LIKE YOU GOT HIT ON THE HEAD LAST NIGHT...
...REMEMBER?
HIT ON HEAD... YEAH-- AT RACE-WAY!
TAXI! COULD YOU DRIVE ME...
...BACK TO HUDSON UNIVERSITY?
SURE, KID!
HEY, THAT'S MY CAB...
415 SOUTH STREET... NEW CARTHAGE...
...THAT'S WHEN I GOT HIT ON THE HEAD...
SAYY!-- MY REPORT PAPER-- I DIDN'T PLAGIARIZE IT! I GOT IT FROM...
4

NEXT MORNING, A DOOR-BELL'S RING BREAKS THE QUIET IN THE HOUSE AT 415 SOUTH STREET...
GOOD MORNING, SIR! I'M WORKING MY WAY THROUGH COLLEGE SELLING STARBURST VACUUM CLEANERS AND--
BEAT IT, KID! I NEVER TOUCH THE STUFF!
IF YOU WILL ONLY GIVE ME A MINUTE TO DEMONSTRATE--
UH, MAY I SEE THE LADY OF THE HOUSE..?
JUST ME AN' TWO OTHER GUYS LIVE HERE / WE'RE BORROWIN' THE HOUSE FOR A FEW DAYS--HEY! GET YOUR FOOT OUTA THE DOOR!
YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG FOR A KID.. LISTEN, WHY'N'TCHA GO HOME?
NOT BEFORE I DEMONSTRATE STARBURST'S AMAZING SUCTION ACTION, SIR!
THESE COULD BE THE THREE I'M AFTER-- BUT I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE!
YA DUMMY, WHADDYA DOING?!
ALL RIGHT, PUNK--THAT'S ENOUGH!
VERY WELL, GENTLEMEN-- I CAN TAKE A HINT!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU GOTTA CALL THE GOVERNOR!
BUT COULD I PLEASE CALL MY MOTHER FOR A RIDE HOME?
AWW...LET THE POOR KID CALL HIS OLD LADY!
AS THE YOUNG SALESMAN IS ALLOWED TO DIAL HIS NUMBER..
HELLO, SERGEANT GALLAGHER ...THIS IS ROBIN...
I'VE FOUND THE TRIO WHO PULLED THE RACE-TRACK ROBBERY AND MURDERED THE CABBY!
?!?

SEND A SQUAD CAR TO 415 SOUTH STREET...
—I'M REALLY GLAD TO SEE YOU GUYS...
URFPH!
...DECIDED TO RUSH IN ON ME LIKE THIS!
MEANS YOU ARE THE TRIO I'M LOOKING FOR...
—...AND I DON'T HAVE TO WAIT AROUND FOR THE POLICE TO SHOW!
...BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO WAKE UP IN A CELL!

LATER, AT A POLICE LINEUP...
THAT'S THEM, DEFINITELY--THE FIRST, FOURTH AND FIFTH!
I'M GLAD THIS THING IS OVER WITH! I'VE BEEN HAVING WEIRD DREAMS ABOUT IT!
LUKE, I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE...
...SOMETHING ABOUT A PHONY TERM PAPER?
THAT'S ALL CLEARED UP NOW!
--I WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A DREAM LAST NIGHT AND...
OH, WOW!--I JUST REMEMBERED THAT MY UNCLE, THE ASIAN DIPLOMAT, ALSO HAS THAT BOOK PROFESSOR RAYMOND SHOWED ME...
...AND I THUMBED THROUGH IT LAST SUMMER...
...MUST HAVE RECALLED IT WORD-FOR-WORD UNDER THE STRESS OF BEING LATE TO HAND IN MY REPORT!
AND AS A TEEN WONDER BARRELS DOWN THE STREET...
I ALWAYS GET A KICK OUT OF WATCHING HIM RIDE OFF LIKE THAT--FREE AS THE WIND!
DO YOU THINK HE REALLY DIGS BEING A COSTUMED HERO?
DOES ROBIN "DIG" IT?...DOES SUPERMAN KNOW HOW TO FLY?
THE END
7

GUARANTEED!

Triple your money in less than 30 days...or get your money back

THAT'S RIGHT! Now there's a *guaranteed-safe* way for you to TRIPLE your money in 30 days or less... without risking one red cent! You can start small or start large... watch a $50.00 investment grow to $150.00, or watch $500.00 grow to $1,500.00 — all within a month! Or, if you wish, you can start with no investment whatsoever, and still enjoy the same fantastic 200% profits that have made the spare time of others worth as much as $25.00... $50.00... yes, even as much as $100.00 per hour!

These highest-ever profits are waiting for you to collect them *right now*, just as soon as you start to show Merlite Rings to your friends, neighbors, people at work! And we do mean *show* — you don't have to sell these remarkable rings, because they literally sell themselves, and sell themselves FAST, on sight! You don't need a "sales pitch," you don't need to knock on doors, you don't need to do any hard work at all! Just SHOW Merlite Rings to folks you know... and watch your money TRIPLE before your very eyes! WE GUARANTEE IT.

STUNNING MAN-MADE STONES THAT RIVAL NATURE'S OWN!

Merlite Rings feature a variety of genuine and simulated stones, including the DIA-SIM®, the fabulous "look-alike" that only a jeweler can distinguish from a natural diamond. Like a diamond, the DIA-SIM® is hard enough to scratch glass... yet it's *guaranteed* never to break, chip, or cloud. To bring out all their fiery beauty, we set them in exquisite 10K gold-filled, 18K heavy gold electroplated, and sterling silver mountings. The results: rings which look like they should sell for hundreds, even THOUSANDS of dollars... but which you can offer to your customers for only $6.00 to $39.00 each! And remember, every ring that you sell from your catalog puts a *whopping 200% profit in your pocket!* Sell a $15.00 ring, and pocket $10.00. Sell a $39.00 ring, and pocket $26.00. Sell three, four, five rings in an hour, and you're on your way to Easy Street!

DOZENS AND DOZENS OF FAST-SELLING STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM!

The Merlite Collection includes over 100 of irresistible styles for men, for women, for children, for EVERYBODY! What's more, new styles are constantly being added, plus special promotions to let you cash in BIG on the traditional gift-giving seasons: Christmas, Valentine Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day. What's more, each Merlite Ring comes complete with a beautiful gift box at no extra cost! When you become a Merlite Jewelry Dealer every day of the week, every day of the year means profits, profits, and MORE profits... profits so huge, so effortless, that you can forget about money worries.

EVERY RING GUARANTEED FOR A LIFETIME!

Every Merlite Ring purchased from you carries with it a written Lifetime Guarantee. Under the terms of this Guarantee, the ring may be returned to Merlite Industries at any time, in any condition, and for a service fee of just $3.00, we will repair it or replace it with a brand-new ring, and return it promptly to the owner. *This sales-clinching Guarantee even applies to rings with missing stones!*

SAME-DAY DELIVERY! FREE DROP-SHIP SERVICE!

What's more, you and your customers won't have to wait for delivery on Merlite Rings! Your orders are processed the same day we receive them, so that shipments are speeding back to you within 24 hours or less. And as an extra FREE service to you, we'll even drop-ship rings directly to your customers, so that YOU don't have to spend your valuable time making deliveries!

YOUR CHOICE OF TWO NO-RISK MONEY-MAKING PLANS!

As a Merlite Jewelry Dealer, there are TWO ways for you to make the most fantastic profits of your life. If you wish you can start without investing one penny in inventory: simply show our gorgeous 44-page, full-color Customer Presentation Catalogue to your customers, collect your money, and forward the orders to us for immediate delivery. Or start with a *protected* inventory of Merlite Rings and make money even faster by offering on-the-spot delivery. If you do decide to start with an inventory, you won't be risking a penny: regardless of the size of your first order, we GUARANTEE that you'll sell out quickly and easily within the first 30 days. If not, Merlite Industries will buy back any unsold rings for every penny you paid for them. And under either plan, you make a full 200% profit on each and every sale!

SEND NO MONEY — BUT MAIL COUPON TODAY!

Regardless of which plan you decide to start with, the most important thing is to get started NOW! Just take a moment to fill in and mail the coupon below. By return mail we'll rush you EVERYTHING you need to start making big, easy money next week: the lavish 44-page Customer Presentation Catalogue, an accurate ring-sizer, wholesale order forms, plus full details of our fantastic TRIPLE-YOUR-MONEY Profit Offer. It's all FREE, there's no obligation, and nobody will call on you. Don't miss out on the biggest Profit Bonanza of a lifetime — mail the coupon TODAY!

LUXURIOUS JEWELER'S DISPLAY CASE FREE!

We normally charge $8.00 for this professional jeweler's display case but it's yours, absolutely FREE when you become a Merlite Ring Dealer under our sensational TRIPLE-YOUR-MONEY Profit Plan. Small enough to carry in your pocket or purse, lined with luxurious black velvet, the case holds 12 rings — sparks instant sales every time you open it! Think of it — a "jewelry shop" you can fit in your pocket... and that can turn your spare-time hours into a FULL-TIME income! Just mail the coupon for FREE details!

MERLITE INDUSTRIES, INC. DEPT. 231
114 EAST 32ND STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

MERLITE INDUSTRIES, INC. DEPT. 231
114 East 32nd Street • New York, N.Y. 10016

I'm ready for TRIPLE PROFITS with Merlite Rings! By return mail, rush me everything I need to start making big money at once, including the lavish full-color Customer Presentation Catalogue! I understand that everything is FREE and without any obligation on my part!

☐ MR. ☐ MRS. ☐ MISS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

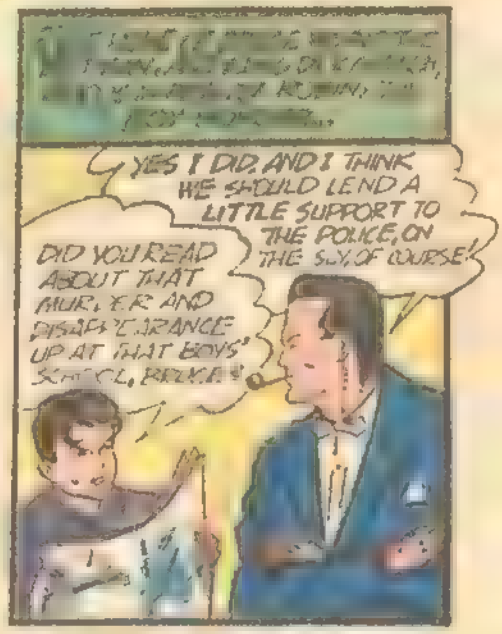
STATE _____ ZIP _____

IN CANADA: MOPA CO. LTD., 371 DOWD ST., MONTREAL 1, QUEBEC

BATMAN ODDITIES!

THE JOKER IS THE ONLY MAJOR BATMAN VILLAIN WHOSE REAL NAME HAS NEVER BEEN REVEALED!

HE HAS USED MANY ALIASES, BUT NEVER HIS TRUE NAME!


YES I DID, AND I THINK WE SHOULD LEND A LITTLE SUPPORT TO THE POLICE, ON THE S.Y. OF COURSE!
DID YOU READ ABOUT THAT MURDER AND DISAPPEARANCE UP AT THAT BOYS' SCHOOL, BRUCE?

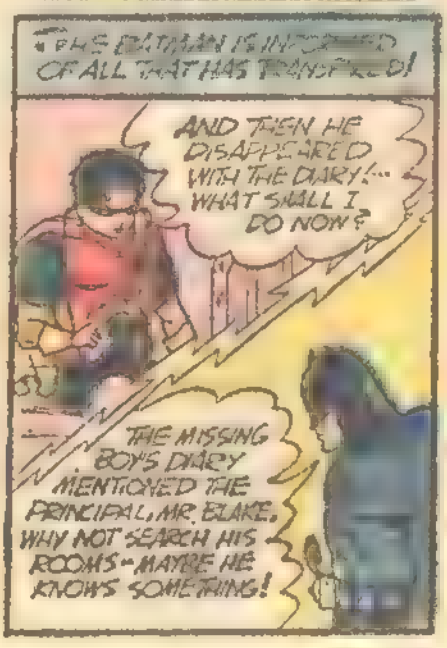
IN ONE STORY (DETECTIVE #41; JULY, 1940), BOTH BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON HAD BROWN HAIR! (EXCEPT ON PAGE ONE, WHERE ROBIN'S HAIR WAS BLUE-BLACK!)

IN THE EARLY BATMAN STORIES, HIS HOME BASE WAS ESTABLISHED AS NEW YORK!

ACTUALLY, THE NAME OF GOTHAM CITY WAS FIRST USED IN DETECTIVE #48; FEB., 1941!

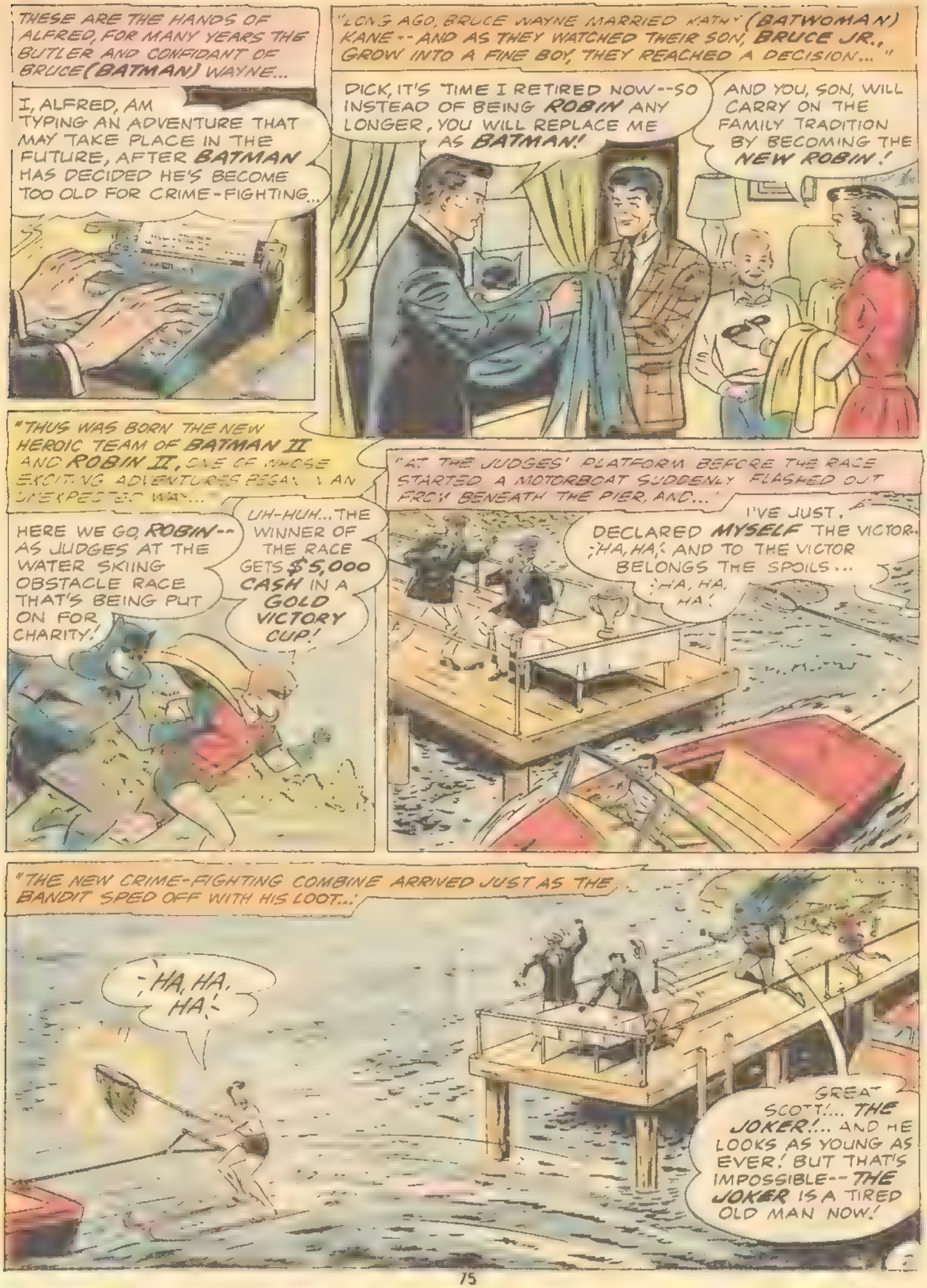
TWO NIGHTS LATER... GOTHAM CITY... IN A PRIVATE OFFICE OF THE TOP HAT CLUB...
LISTEN, RENALDO... THIS CLUB OF YOURS AIN'T DOING SO HOT. NOW, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME DOUGH—BIG DOUGH!
YOU INTEREST ME STRANGELY, NICK... KEEP TALKING!

THIS SAME ISSUE WAS THE FIRST IN WHICH THE HEROES USED THEIR BELT-RADIOS! NOTE THE ODD RECEIVER ON THE BATMAN'S BELT-BUCKLE!


AND THEN HE DISAPPEARED WITH THE DIARY!... WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?
THE MISSING BOY'S DIARY MENTIONED THE PRINCIPAL, MR. BLAKE. WHY NOT SEARCH HIS ROOMS—MAYBE HE KNOWS SOMETHING!

NICE GOING, ROBIN! AND NOW THAT WE'VE COVERED OUR ADVENTURES OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY... WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW? WHAT DOES THE FANTASTIC FUTURE HOLD?
THAT'S FOR ME TO TELL, SIR! AFTER ALL, THIS GLIMPSE AT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO THE BATMAN AND ROBIN IS MY STORY... TOLD IN MY OWN WORDS...
ONE DAY, BATMAN WILL HAVE TO RETIRE...ONE DAY, ANOTHER BATMAN WILL CARRY ON HIS FAMED TRADITION! HERE IS A STORY OF SUCH A FUTURE--A FUTURE IN WHICH THE SECOND BATMAN MEETS A SECOND JOKER! WILL THE NEW BATMAN AND ROBIN BE VICTORIOUS, AS THE ELDER BATMAN WAS AGAINST HIS NOTORIOUS FOE? READ ON, AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SECOND BATMAN AND ROBIN TEAM FIGHTS...
BATMAN
with ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
the SON of THE JOKER
HA, HA! I'LL ESCAPE FROM YOU AS EASILY AS MY FAMOUS FATHER DID!
FASTER, ROBIN -- FASTER! THE HONOR OF THE BATMAN NAME IS AT STAKE!
ROB KALE

THE SON OF THE JOKER


THESE ARE THE HANDS OF ALFRED, FOR MANY YEARS THE BUTLER AND CONFIDANT OF BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE...
I, ALFRED, AM TYPING AN ADVENTURE THAT MAY TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE, AFTER BATMAN HAS DECIDED HE'S BECOME TOO OLD FOR CRIME-FIGHTING...
"LONG AGO, BRUCE WAYNE MARRIED KATHY (BATWOMAN) KANE -- AND AS THEY WATCHED THEIR SON, BRUCE JR., GROW INTO A FINE BOY, THEY REACHED A DECISION..."
DICK, IT'S TIME I RETIRED NOW--SO INSTEAD OF BEING ROBIN ANY LONGER, YOU WILL REPLACE ME AS BATMAN!
AND YOU, SON, WILL CARRY ON THE FAMILY TRADITION BY BECOMING THE NEW ROBIN!
"THUS WAS BORN THE NEW HEROIC TEAM OF BATMAN II AND ROBIN II, ONE OF WHOSE EXCITING ADVENTURES BEGAN IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY...
HERE WE GO, ROBIN -- AS JUDGES AT THE WATER SKIING OBSTACLE RACE THAT'S BEING PUT ON FOR CHARITY!
UH-HUH... THE WINNER OF THE RACE GETS $5,000 CASH IN A GOLD VICTORY CUP!
"AT THE JUDGES' PLATFORM BEFORE THE RACE STARTED A MOTORBOAT SUDDENLY FLASHED OUT FROM BENEATH THE PIER, AND..."
I'VE JUST DECLARED MYSELF THE VICTOR! ;HA, HA,; AND TO THE VICTOR BELONGS THE SPOILS... ;HA, HA, HA!
"THE NEW CRIME-FIGHTING COMBINE ARRIVED JUST AS THE BANDIT SPED OFF WITH HIS LOOT..."
;HA, HA, HA!;
GREAT SCOTT!... THE JOKER!... AND HE LOOKS AS YOUNG AS EVER! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE -- THE JOKER IS A TIRED OLD MAN NOW!

"ACTING SWIFTLY, THE NEW TEAM RISKED THE OBSTACLE COURSE, TRYING TO CUT DOWN THE JOKER'S LEAD..."
HA,HA! JUST LIKE OLD TIMES... BUT WITH A NEW BATMAN AND A NEW JOKER!
THE MAN YOU FOUGHT, WHEN YOU WERE THE FIRST ROBIN, IS MY FATHER... I AM HIS SON!
THE JOKER'S SON?
"AS THE SON OF THE JOKER TRIED AN ESCAPE MANEUVER, THE TEAM PERFORMED ONE TO MATCH IT..."
THE JOKER'S SON, EH? WELL, YOU'RE ONE CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK THAT'S GOING TO BE BLOCKED!

THE SON OF THE JOKER

"KICKING OFF HIS WATER SKIS, BATMAN II RACED TO NET HIS PRIZE CATCH...!"

LOOKS LIKE THAT SOCK KNOCKED HIM UNCONSCIOUS! HE'LL DROWN UNLESS I GET TO HIM FAST!

"BUT AS HE DOVE BELOW THE SURFACE...

WHAT--? THAT CUNNING CLOWN!... HE SLIPPED OUT OF HIS SKIIS--AND DONNED SKIN-DIVING GEAR HIS PAL BROUGHT DOWN TO HIM, FROM THEIR BOAT! I'LL NEVER CATCH THEM NOW!

"AFTERWARD, IN THE BAT-CAVE, THE NEW TEAM TOLD MY MASTER WHAT HAD OCCURRED..."

THE JOKER'S SON?... BUT THE JOKER RETIRED FROM CRIME AFTER SERVING A LONG PRISON TERM.

I THINK I'LL PAY HIM A VISIT.

"SO A WHILE LATER, THE ELDER BATMAN CALLED AT THE ISOLATED RETREAT OF HIS AGED ONE-TIME ENEMY..."

BATMAN! HOW NICE OF YOU TO REMEMBER ME! NOW THAT I'M AN OLD, FORGOTTEN MAN, I HARDLY HAVE VISITORS! COME IN, AND HAVE A FRESH LEMONADE!

HOW STRANGE TO SEE THE ONCE TERRIBLE JOKER...STIFF WITH AGE--TENDING FLOWERS!

"INSIDE, THE JOKER SEEMED PATHETICALLY GLAD OF COMPANY--SOMEONE TO TALK TO..."

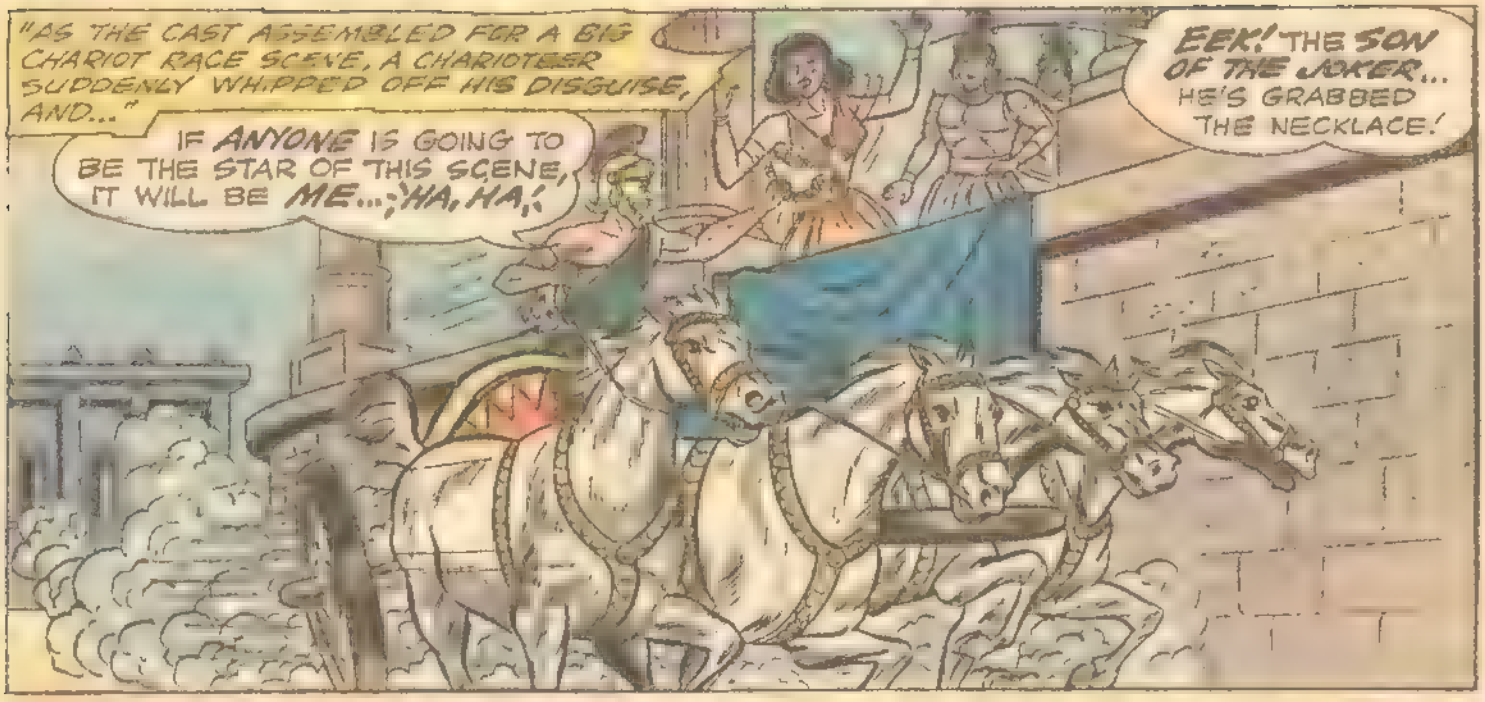
BATMAN! AH SEEING YOU AGAIN REMINDS ME OF THE OLD DAYS--OF THE DELIGHT IN MATCHING WITS WITH YOU.

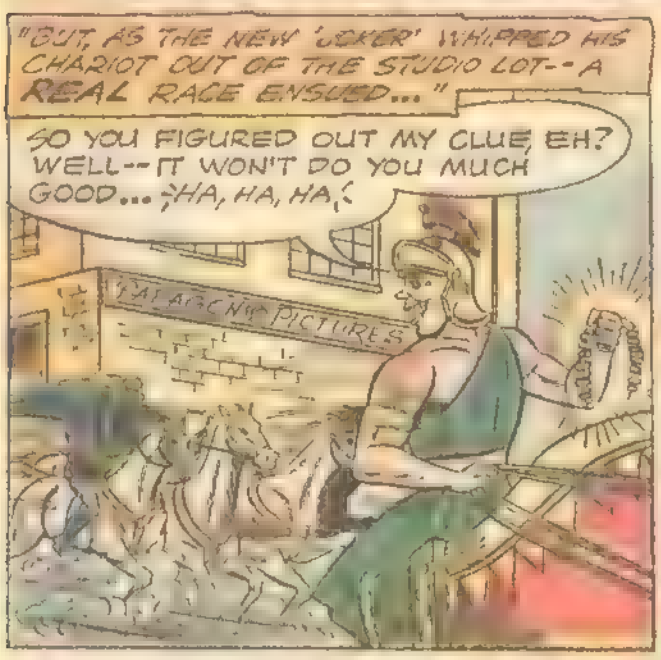
THERE'S NO DELIGHT IN CRIME, JOKER... AND SPEAKING OF CRIME, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT YOUR SON?

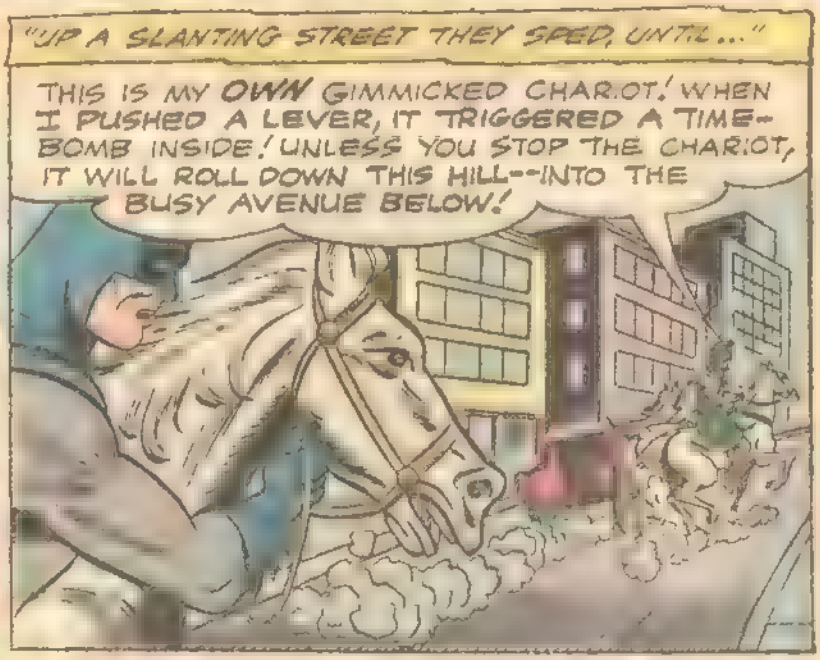
MY SON? I HAVE NO SON! THAT RASCAL I READ ABOUT IS AN IMPOSTOR, WHO OBVIOUSLY STUDIED MY OLD CRIME METHODS--AND NOW HOPES TO CASH IN ON MY GOOD NAME!

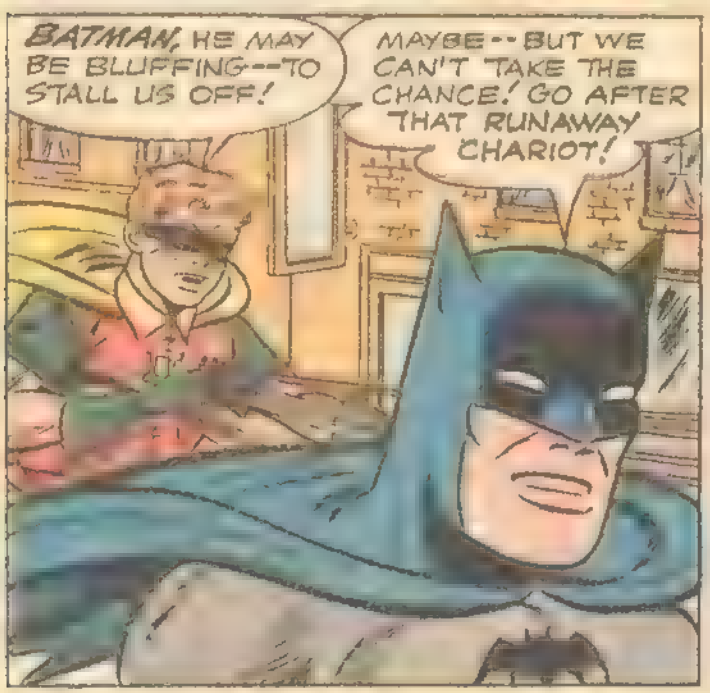
4

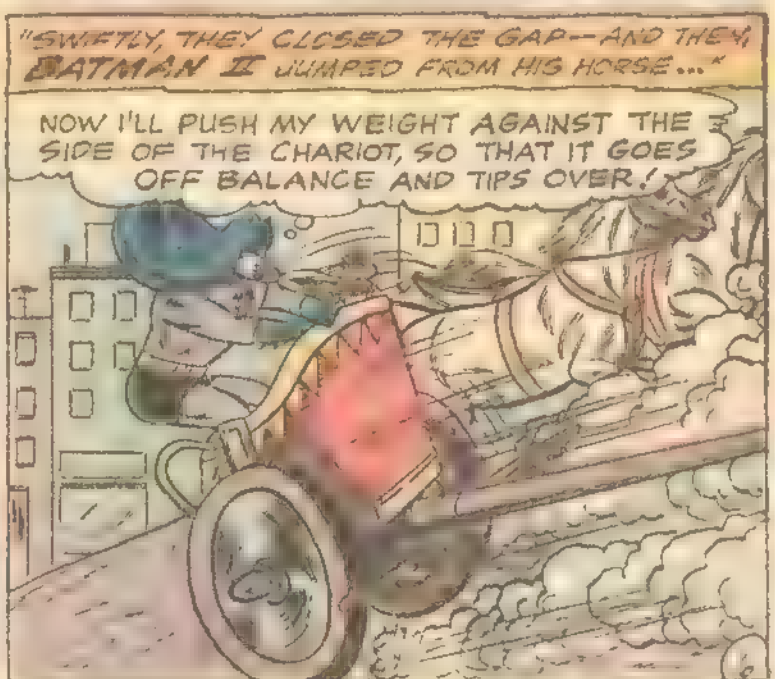
I'D LIKE TO THRASH THAT WHIPPERSNAPPER FOR STIRRING UP THINGS! I'M AN OLD MAN NOW... I HAVE MY FLOWERS, MY BOOKS... I JUST WANT TO LIVE OUT MY REMAINING YEARS IN PEACE!
I'LL TRY TO BELIEVE THAT, JOKER!
"THE NEXT NIGHT, IN A BROWN-STONE WHERE DICK GRAYSON NOW LIVED ALONE, HE LIFTED A SECRET TRAPDOOR..."
ONLY I AND THE WAYNE FAMILY KNOW THAT MY BASEMENT IS RIGHT OVER AN ABANDONED SECTION OF THE OLD SUBWAY! I'LL SLIP ON MY BATMAN COSTUME, WHICH I KEEP IN A SHED BELOW...
"SOON, BATMAN II WAS SPEEDING SWIFTLY OVER THE TRACKS OF AN ELECTRIC CART..."
I BOUGHT MY HOUSE BECAUSE I ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERED THAT THIS SUBWAY TUNNEL LED TO A CAVERNOUS AREA ADJOINING THE BAT-CAVE! BY KNOCKING DOWN A WALL, AND EXTENDING THE TRACKS, I CAN NOW TRAVEL, UNSEEN, FROM MY HOME RIGHT TO THE BAT-CAVE!
ZZZZZZ
"UPSTAIRS IN THE WAYNE HOUSE, A BUZZER ALERTED YOUNG BRUCE..."
THE SIGNAL FROM THE BAT-CAVE... UNCLE DICK IS WAITING! GOSH, I HOPE WE RUN INTO THAT "SON" OF THE JOKER AGAIN!
SIGH! I'M AFRAID I'M LIKE ALL MOTHERS... I'M ALWAYS WORRIED OUR BOY MAY GET HURT!
B-Z-Z-Z
"NOT FAR AWAY, PARAGON PICTURES WAS FILMING A SUPER-SPECTACLE ABOUT ANCIENT ROME..."
REMEMBER, THIS IS THE ACTUAL NECKLACE WORN BY AN EARLY ROMAN QUEEN! IT'S PRICELESS -- WE HAD TO BORROW IT FROM A MUSEUM... BUT WE GOT A LOT OF PUBLICITY WITH IT!
"LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE NEW TEAM WAS HANDED A LETTER THAT HAD BEEN ADDRESSED TO THEM..."
LIKE MY FATHER, I'M CHALLENGING YOU TO A GAME OF WITS! I'VE WON THE WATER SKI RACE, AND I INTEND TO WIN ANOTHER RACING CONTEST! CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE FROM MY CLUE?
HMM... A DRAWING OF THE "SON" OF THE JOKER, WEARING THE HELMET OF AN ANCIENT ROMAN LEGIONNAIRE!
5

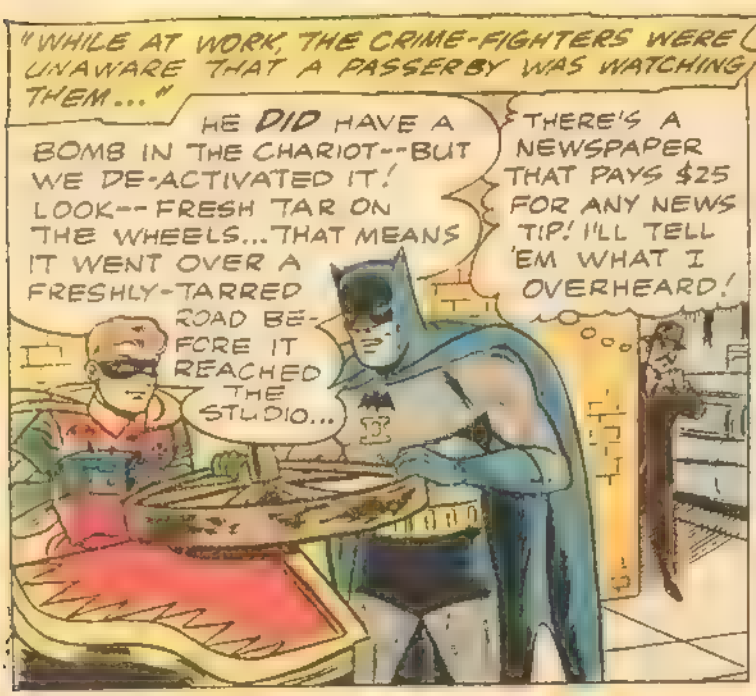

"AS THE CAST ASSEMBLED FOR A BIG CHARIOT RACE SCENE, A CHARIOTEER SUDDENLY WHIPPED OFF HIS DISGUISE, AND..."
IF ANYONE IS GOING TO BE THE STAR OF THIS SCENE, IT WILL BE ME...;HA, HA,!
EEK! THE SON OF THE JOKER... HE'S GRABBED THE NECKLACE!

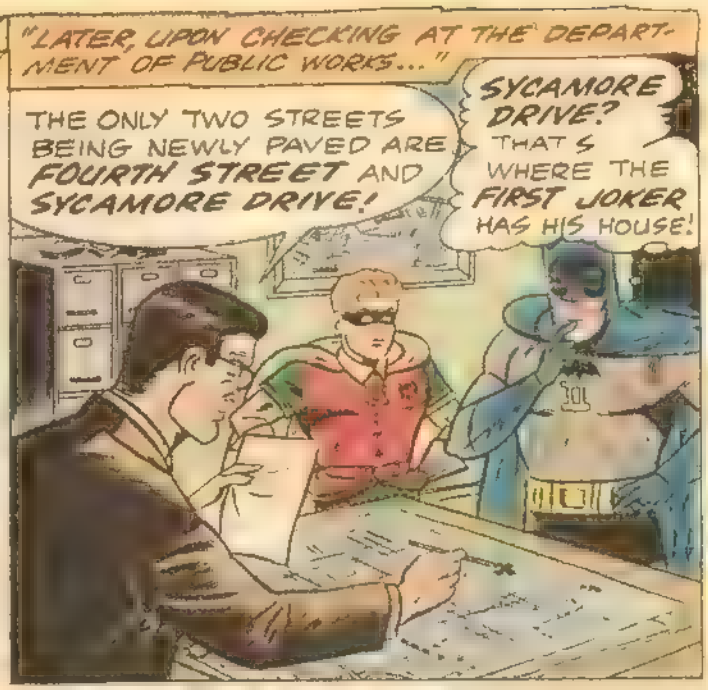

"BUT, AS THE NEW 'JOKER' WHIPPED HIS CHARIOT OUT OF THE STUDIO LOT--A REAL RACE ENSUED..."
SO YOU FIGURED OUT MY CLUE, EH? WELL--IT WON'T DO YOU MUCH GOOD...;HA, HA, HA,!
PICTURES

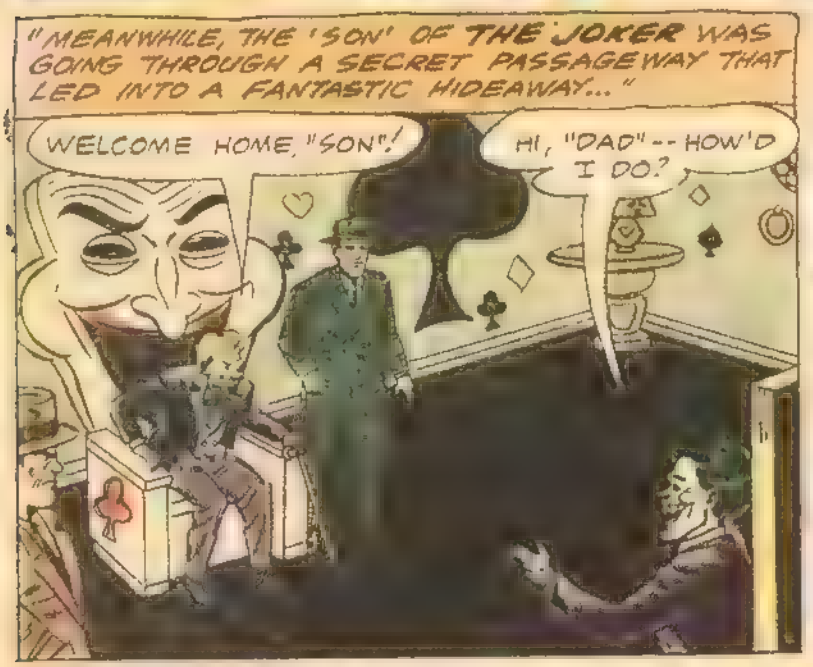

"UP A SLANTING STREET THEY SPED, UNTIL..."
THIS IS MY OWN GIMMICKED CHARIOT! WHEN I PUSHED A LEVER, IT TRIGGERED A TIME-BOMB INSIDE! UNLESS YOU STOP THE CHARIOT, IT WILL ROLL DOWN THIS HILL--INTO THE BUSY AVENUE BELOW!


BATMAN, HE MAY BE BLUFFING--TO STALL US OFF!
MAYBE--BUT WE CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE! GO AFTER THAT RUNAWAY CHARIOT!

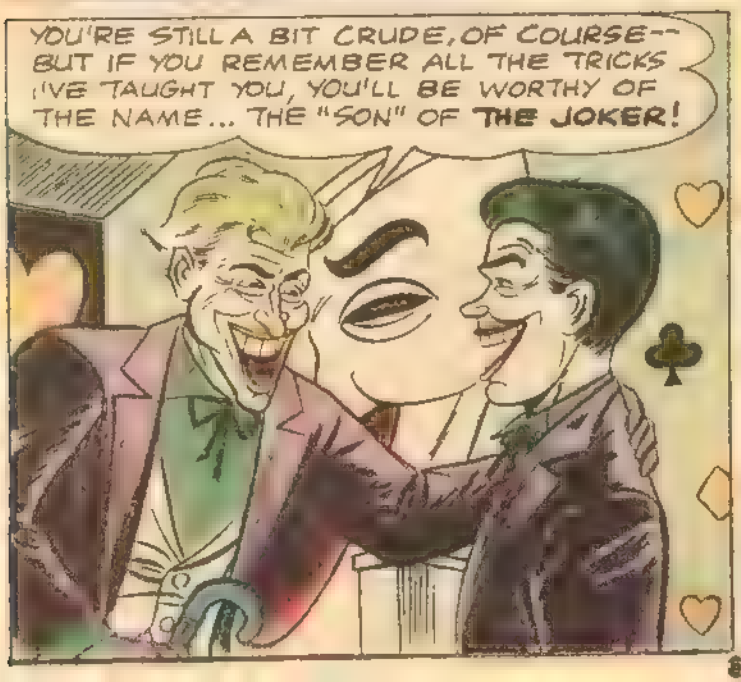

"SWIFTLY, THEY CLOSED THE GAP--AND THEN, BATMAN II JUMPED FROM HIS HORSE..."
NOW I'LL PUSH MY WEIGHT AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE CHARIOT, SO THAT IT GOES OFF BALANCE AND TIPS OVER!

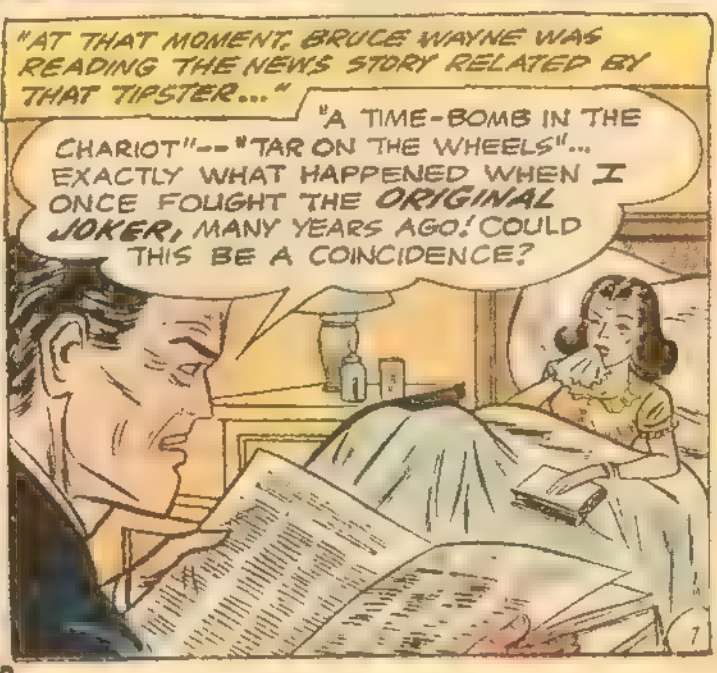

"WHILE AT WORK, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS WERE UNAWARE THAT A PASSERBY WAS WATCHING THEM..."
HE DID HAVE A BOMB IN THE CHARIOT--BUT WE DE-ACTIVATED IT! LOOK--FRESH TAR ON THE WHEELS...THAT MEANS IT WENT OVER A FRESHLY-TARRED ROAD BEFORE IT REACHED THE STUDIO...
THERE'S A NEWSPAPER THAT PAYS $25 FOR ANY NEWS TIP! I'LL TELL 'EM WHAT I OVERHEARD!


"LATER, UPON CHECKING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS..."
THE ONLY TWO STREETS BEING NEWLY PAVED ARE FOURTH STREET AND SYCAMORE DRIVE!
SYCAMORE DRIVE? THAT'S WHERE THE FIRST JOKER HAS HIS HOUSE!

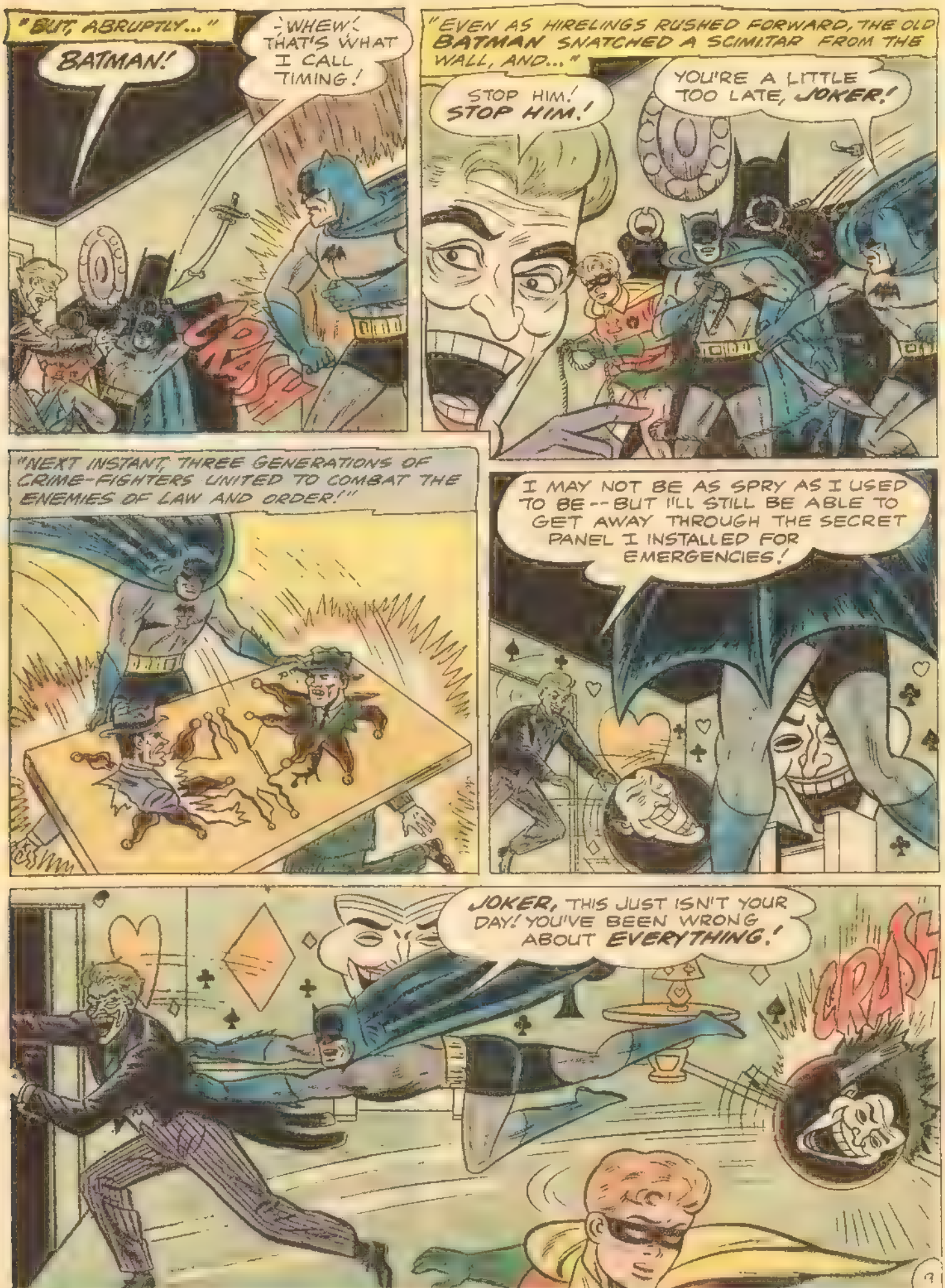

"MEANWHILE, THE 'SON' OF THE JOKER WAS GOING THROUGH A SECRET PASSAGEWAY THAT LED INTO A FANTASTIC HIDEAWAY..."
WELCOME HOME, "SON"!
HI, "DAD"--HOW'D I DO?

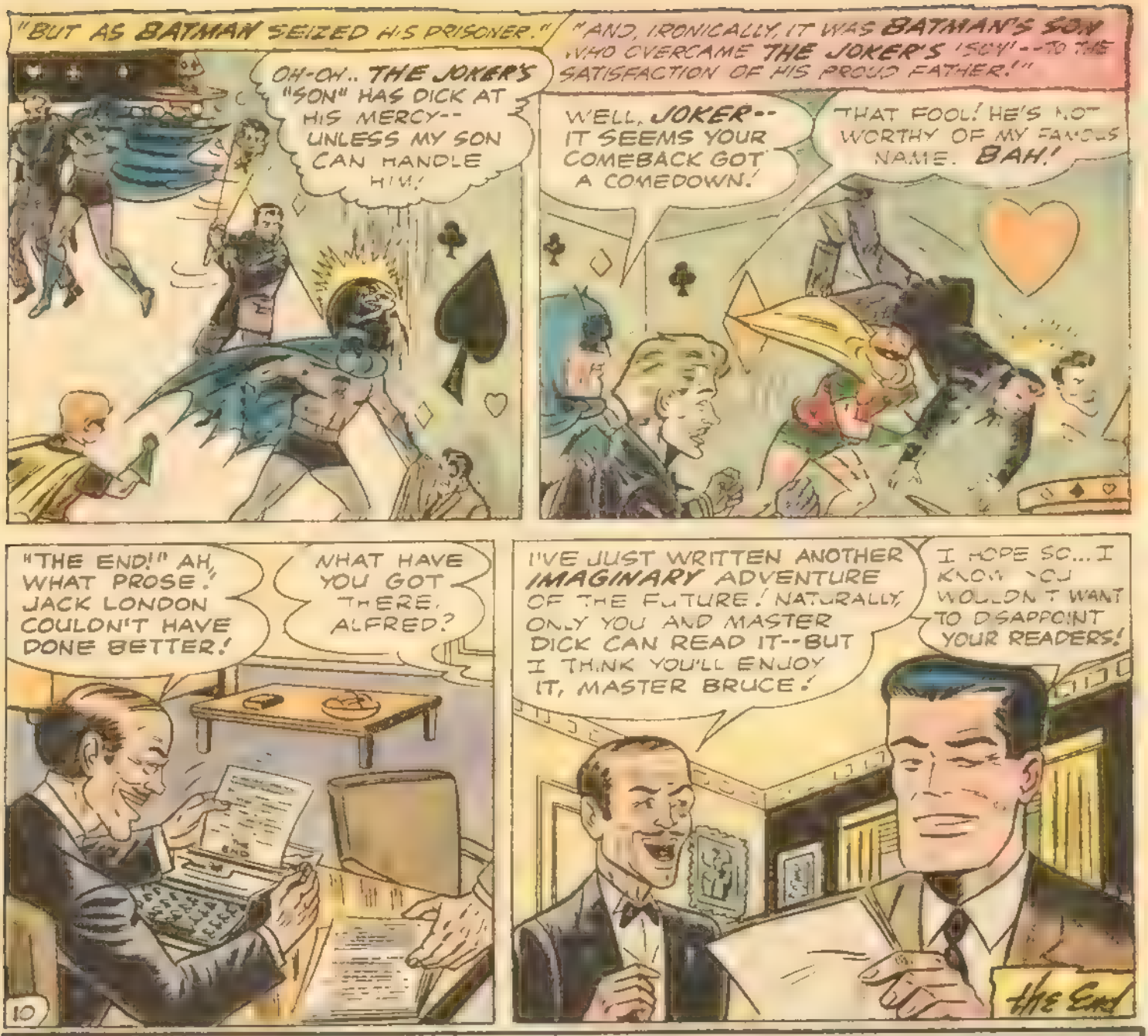
FINE, FINE! I NEVER HAD A SON, BUT I ALWAYS WANTED ONE--AND WHEN I CHOSE YOU TO BE MY PROTÉGÉ, I KNEW YOU'D CARRY ON THE JOKER TRADITION IN GOOD STYLE!


YOU'RE STILL A BIT CRUDE, OF COURSE--BUT IF YOU REMEMBER ALL THE TRICKS I'VE TAUGHT YOU, YOU'LL BE WORTHY OF THE NAME... THE "SON" OF THE JOKER!


"AT THAT MOMENT, BRUCE WAYNE WAS READING THE NEWS STORY RELATED BY THAT TIPSTER..."
"A TIME-BOMB IN THE CHARIOT"--"TAR ON THE WHEELS"... EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I ONCE FOUGHT THE ORIGINAL JOKER, MANY YEARS AGO! COULD THIS BE A COINCIDENCE?

COULD THE NEW JOKER HAVE STUDIED THE OLD JOKER'S TACTICS SO CLOSELY AND... GREAT SCOTT! I JUST REMEMBERED--THE ORIGINAL JOKER DELIBERATELY PUT TAR ON THE WHEELS TO LURE ME INTO A TRAP!
KATHY, I MAY BE OVERLY CONCERNED, BUT I'M GOING TO CHECK ON THE OLD JOKER AGAIN!
;SNIFF! OH, I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE THIS AWFUL COLD... THEN I COULD GO WITH YOU ;SNIFF! AS BATWOMAN!
"SOON AFTER, BATMAN WARILY CHECKED THE GROUNDS ABOUT THE OLD JOKER'S SECLUDED HOME..."
ODD.. ALL THE OTHER FLOWERS IN THE REAR OF HIS HOUSE ARE TALL AND HEALTHY... BUT THESE ARE STUNTED, WEAK-- ALMOST AS IF THEIR ROOTS AREN'T IN DEEP ENOUGH SOIL! I WONDER...?
"FEELING AROUND THE SOIL, BATMAN SOON DISCOVERED THE ANSWER..."
NO WONDER! THE FLOWERS AND SOIL CAMOUFLAGED A TRAPDOOR! HMM... STEPS LEADING BELOW--TO A PASSAGE...
"MEANWHILE..."
WELL, "POP"--THE TAR TRICK YOU TAUGHT ME LED THEM HERE, JUST AS YOU SAID IT WOULD!
YES, "SON"-- AND KNOCKOUT GAS BOMBS GOT THEM QUICKLY, THE MINUTE THEY ENTERED THE HOUSE... ;HA, HA!
NOW, AT LONG LAST, I'M GOING TO FULFILL MY DREAM--TO UNMASK BATMAN! ONCE I KNOW BATMAN II'S IDENTITY--THEN I'LL ALSO KNOW THE SECRET IDENTITY OF BATMAN I!
8

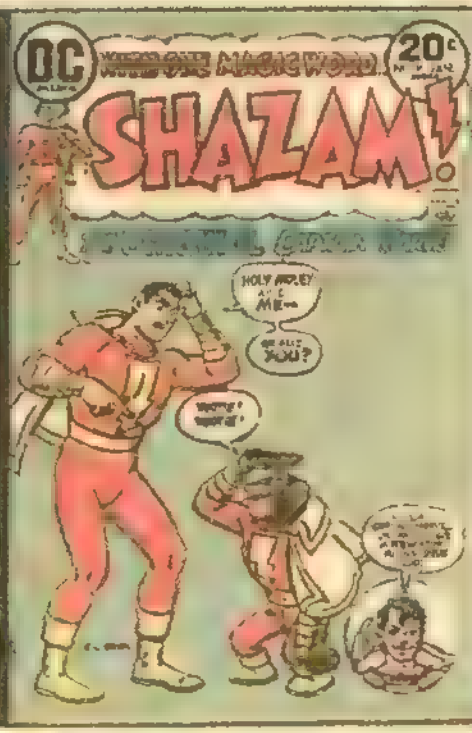

"BUT, ABRUPTLY..."
BATMAN!
-WHEW! THAT'S WHAT I CALL TIMING!
CRASH
"EVEN AS HIRELINGS RUSHED FORWARD, THE OLD BATMAN SNATCHED A SCIMITAR FROM THE WALL, AND..."
STOP HIM! STOP HIM!
YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO LATE, JOKER!
"NEXT INSTANT, THREE GENERATIONS OF CRIME-FIGHTERS UNITED TO COMBAT THE ENEMIES OF LAW AND ORDER!"
I MAY NOT BE AS SPRY AS I USED TO BE--BUT I'LL STILL BE ABLE TO GET AWAY THROUGH THE SECRET PANEL I INSTALLED FOR EMERGENCIES!
JOKER, THIS JUST ISN'T YOUR DAY! YOU'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT EVERYTHING!
CRASH


"BUT AS BATMAN SEIZED HIS PRISONER."
OH-OH.. THE JOKER'S "SON" HAS DICK AT HIS MERCY-- UNLESS MY SON CAN HANDLE HIM!
"AND, IRONICALLY, IT WAS BATMAN'S SON WHO OVERCAME THE JOKER'S 'SON'--TO THE SATISFACTION OF HIS PROUD FATHER!"
WELL, JOKER-- IT SEEMS YOUR COMEBACK GOT A COMEDOWN.
THAT FOOL! HE'S NOT WORTHY OF MY FAMOUS NAME. BAH!
"THE END!" AH, WHAT PROSE! JACK LONDON COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER!
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE, ALFRED?
I'VE JUST WRITTEN ANOTHER IMAGINARY ADVENTURE OF THE FUTURE! NATURALLY, ONLY YOU AND MASTER DICK CAN READ IT--BUT I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY IT, MASTER BRUCE!
I HOPE SO... I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT YOUR READERS!
THE END
10

DC TAKES A GIANT STEP IN '74!

"THE DAY SHAZAM WENT APE!"

ON SALE OCT. 18TH



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WAR

60 ☐ G.I. COMBAT
61 ☐ OUR ARMY AT WAR
62 ☐ OUR FIGHTING FORCES
63 ☐ STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES
64 ☐ WEIRD WAR TALES

HERE COMES THE COMICS-MAN!

Have you ever had trouble finding a store that carries DC Comics magazines? Have you ever had a hard time locating a particular issue that just didn't seem to go on sale anywhere? Then, it's time you heard about DC's latest and greatest project, the COMICMOBILE!

Over the past two years, DC's Vice-President and Production Manager, Sol Harrison, has received hundreds of letters from readers who have had difficulty in locating the DC line of comics. One answer to the problem appeared to be subscriptions, and all DC mags began carrying the proper form offering fifteen issues for $3.00. Realizing that few readers could afford to subscribe to all the titles they collect at once, Mr. Harrison developed the totally unique concept of the COMICMOBILE with the blessing of Carmine Infantino, the publisher of DC, and it was all systems go!

Picture, if you will, a brightly decorated van, covered with all the heroes and heroines comprising the DC line of super-stars. With a blaring "Here Comes the Comics-Man!" wrapped around the Supervan, and with covers of the latest issues filling the windows, the project that in jest had been known as Solly's Folly around the office began taking our comic magazines right to neighborhood streets and appears to be a stunning success.

Test sites were carefully chosen in the Long Island and New Jersey areas where comics were not distributed. Could comic books be brought to the people the way ice cream is? The answer is yes! Readers from three to ninety-three kept coming back to the COMICMOBILE for their favorite DC magazines, every one from Action to Young Romance, every character from Atom to Zatanna.

Inside, the van is decorated with posters of Batman, Robin, Superman and Plop!, the number one selling comic book so far in the Comicmobile's journeys. Original artwork and pictures of Superman line the interior along with giant buttons proclaiming "Shazam Is Coming!"

While stopping at day camps, parks, beaches and the New York Giants Summer training camp, the COMICMOBILE has run Superman cartoons to entertain its customers in between purchases of comics. T-shirts, pennants and souvenirs from the Amazing World of Superman in Metropolis, Illinois.

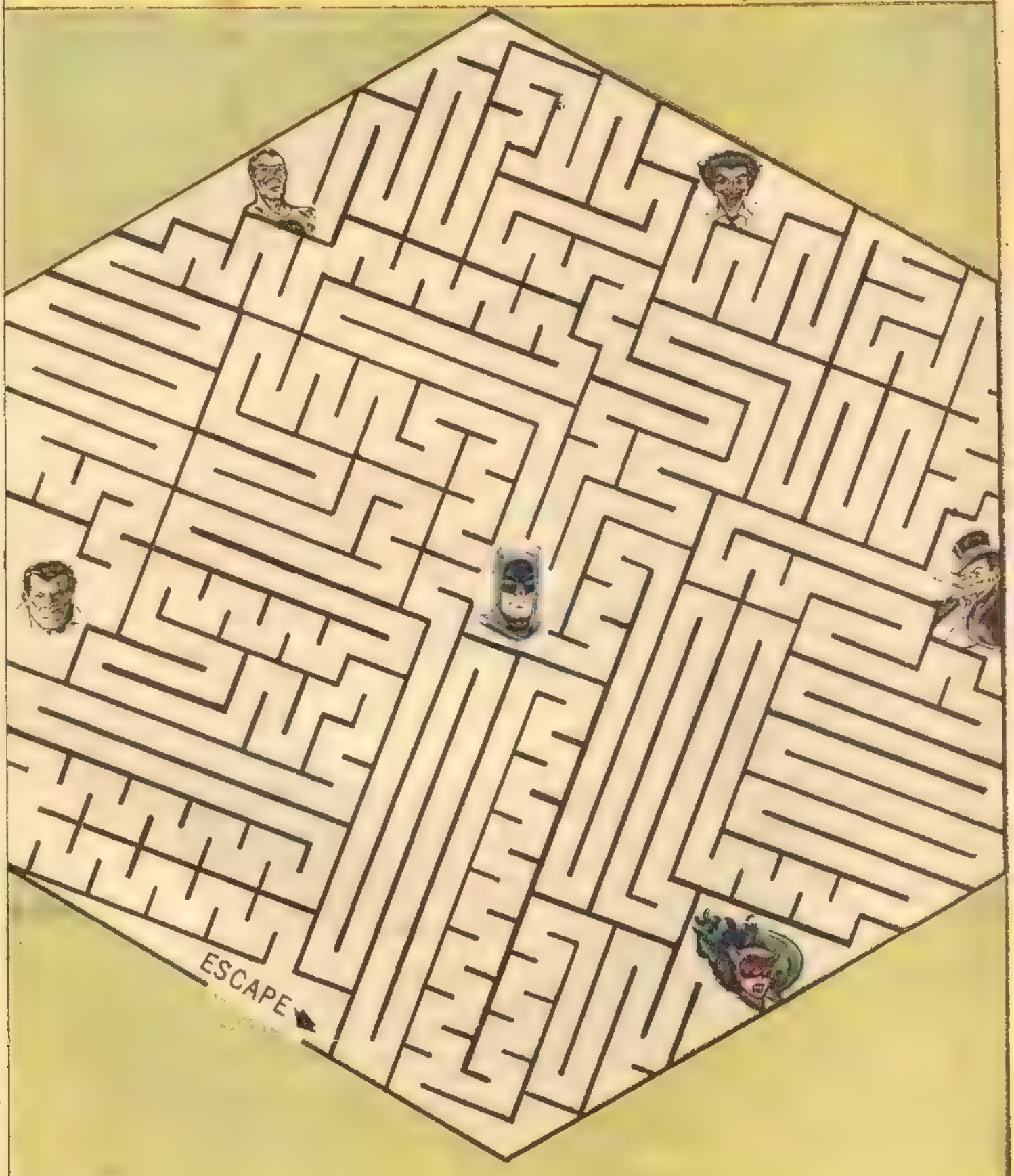
Messrs. Harrison and Infantino may well revolutionize comic magazine distribution with their possible plans of beginning a fleet of COMICMOBILES all around the country. Not only can we at DC tell which of our mags the readers are buying, but we can also see just who is reading them and get direct feedback from these fans. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that every adult and child who wants comic magazines can find them. Yet, while we send out our COMICMOBILES to a few cities we want to help our readers anywhere who have problems finding our comics. If your area is not getting comic books or if you can't locate all the titles you want, send a letter describing the trouble spot to: The DC COMICMOBILE, c/o Sol Harrison, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019.

Meanwhile, keep your ears open for a ringing bell and the words "Faster than a speeding bullet . . ." echoing down your street. The DC COMICMOBILE may be coming to *your* neighborhood next!

BAT-MAZE

P-19

by BOB ROZAKIS



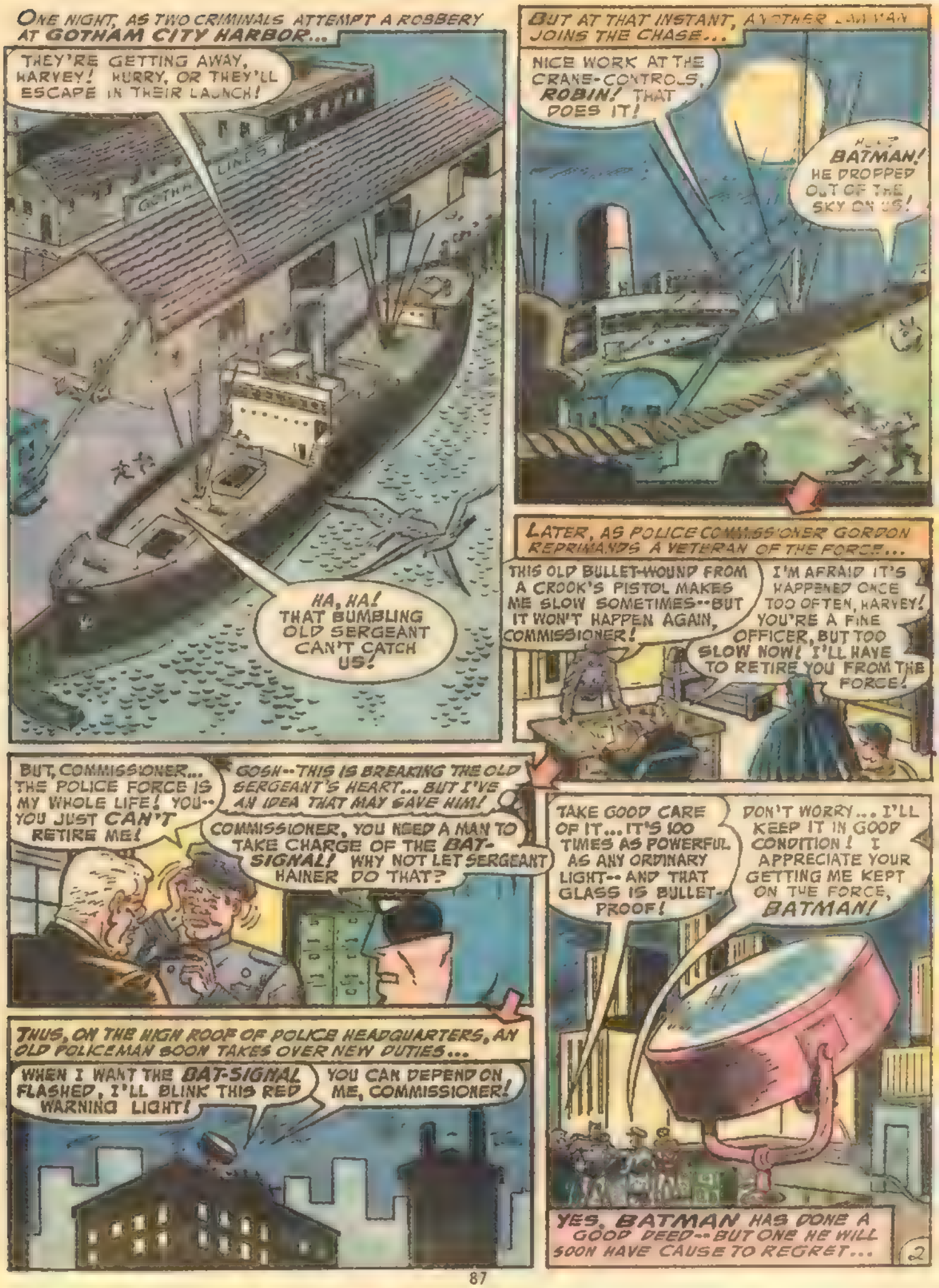
Five of the Batman's most dangerous foes, the Joker, the Penguin, the Riddler, Catwoman, and Two-Face, have teamed up and captured the Caped Crusader. Now they have him imprisoned in a maze and each of them waits in his own private trap, hoping that the Gotham Goliath will stumble into it.

However, the villains admire the Batman's great detective ability and have left one escape route from the building. Can you help the Masked Manhunter find it without getting trapped by one of the villains?

(SEE SOLUTION NEXT ISSUE!)

THANKS, ALFRED! YOU SPIN A GOOD YARN! BUT NOW, LET'S WIND UP THIS ISSUE WITH A SPECIAL STORY ABOUT A VERY SPECIAL PERSON IN THE LIVES OF ROBIN AND MYSELF! READ IT... I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY THIS ONE IN A SPECIAL WAY...
BAT-MAN
with ROBIN
A SHAFT OF LIGHT STABS INTO THE SKY, AND A GRIM AND EERIE SIGN APPEARS OVER GOTHAM CITY! YES, IT IS THE FAMED BAT-SIGNAL THAT CALLS BATMAN AND ROBIN TO ACTION... A SIGNAL OF DOOM FOR MANY WHO FOLLOWED CRIME! BUT THE SUMMONING SKY-SIGN FAILS, AND BRINGS DANGER TO THE DYNAMIC DUO THEM-SELVES, WHEN A SINISTER FATE STRIKES AT... THE GUARDIAN of the BAT-SIGNAL!"
WITH NO BAT-SIGNAL TO CALL US, WE'RE TOO LATE AGAIN TO PREVENT A CRIME!
US
1
BOB HAVE

THE GUARDIAN OF THE BAT-SIGNAL


ONE NIGHT, AS TWO CRIMINALS ATTEMPT A ROBBERY AT GOTHAM CITY HARBOR...
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY, HARVEY! HURRY, OR THEY'LL ESCAPE IN THEIR LAUNCH!
HA, HA! THAT BUMBLING OLD SERGEANT CAN'T CATCH US!
BUT AT THAT INSTANT, ANOTHER MAN JOINS THE CHASE...
NICE WORK AT THE CRANE-CONTROLS, ROBIN! THAT DOES IT!
BATMAN! HE DROPPED OUT OF THE SKY ON US!
LATER, AS POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON REPRIMANDS A VETERAN OF THE FORCE...
THIS OLD BULLET-WOUND FROM A CROOK'S PISTOL MAKES ME SLOW SOMETIMES--BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, COMMISSIONER!
I'M AFRAID IT'S HAPPENED ONCE TOO OFTEN, HARVEY! YOU'RE A FINE OFFICER, BUT TOO SLOW NOW! I'LL HAVE TO RETIRE YOU FROM THE FORCE!
BUT, COMMISSIONER... THE POLICE FORCE IS MY WHOLE LIFE! YOU-- YOU JUST CAN'T RETIRE ME!
GOSH--THIS IS BREAKING THE OLD SERGEANT'S HEART... BUT I'VE AN IDEA THAT MAY SAVE HIM!
COMMISSIONER, YOU NEED A MAN TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE BAT-SIGNAL! WHY NOT LET SERGEANT HAINER DO THAT?
TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT... IT'S 100 TIMES AS POWERFUL AS ANY ORDINARY LIGHT-- AND THAT GLASS IS BULLET-PROOF!
DON'T WORRY... I'LL KEEP IT IN GOOD CONDITION! I APPRECIATE YOUR GETTING ME KEPT ON THE FORCE, BATMAN!
THUS, ON THE HIGH ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AN OLD POLICEMAN SOON TAKES OVER NEW DUTIES...
WHEN I WANT THE BAT-SIGNAL FLASHED, I'LL BLINK THIS RED WARNING LIGHT!
YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME, COMMISSIONER!
YES, BATMAN HAS DONE A GOOD DEED--BUT ONE HE WILL SOON HAVE CAUSE TO REGRET...
2

...FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENING, AS HE AND **ROBIN** RELAX IN THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES OF BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...

BRUCE! A POLICE-RADIO FLASH! THE **DIAMOND EXCHANGE** WAS JUST ROBBED, AND THE THIEVES ARE SPEEDING NORTH!

BUT WHY WASN'T THE **BAT-SIGNAL** USED TO CALL US IN? WELL--NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!

A QUICK CHANGE OF GARMENTS, AND THE MIGHTY **BATMOBILE** ROARS FROM THE HIDDEN **BAT-CAVE** BENEATH THE WAYNE MANSION, AND SPEEDS TOWARD GOTHAM CITY...

THE LAST RADIO-FLASH SAID THE THIEVES WERE IN A BLACK SEDAN, HEADING NORTH!

THERE THEY GO UP THE ELEVATED HIGHWAY, AS I GUESSED THEY WOULD! HOLD ON, **ROBIN!**

I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE **BAT-SIGNAL** WASN'T FLASHED! WE COULD'VE HEADED THEM OFF IF WE'D HAD MORE TIME!

LOOK! THEY'RE SHOOTING AT THAT BIG TRUCK COMING TOWARD US!

AND AS BULLETS PUNCTURE THE TRUCK'S TIRES...

WE CAN'T CATCH THEM NOW--BUT I RECOGNIZED THAT BUNCH...THEY'RE THE LEW LAKERS MOB!

GUESS WE'D BETTER GO ON TO THE **DIAMOND EXCHANGE** AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND OUT!

SCREECHH--

DASH!

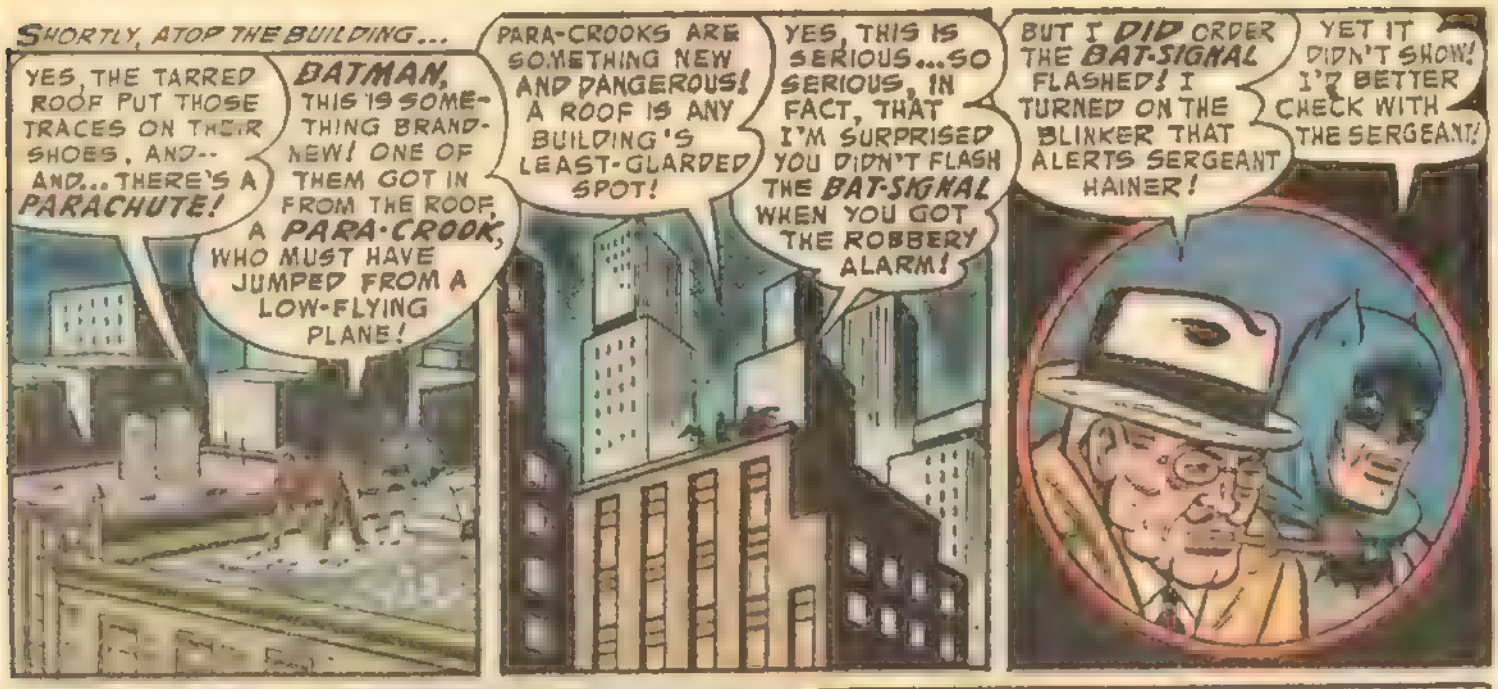
BUT AT THE SCENE OF THE ROBBERY, COMMISSIONER GORDON GREETS THEM WITH A STRANGE PROBLEM...

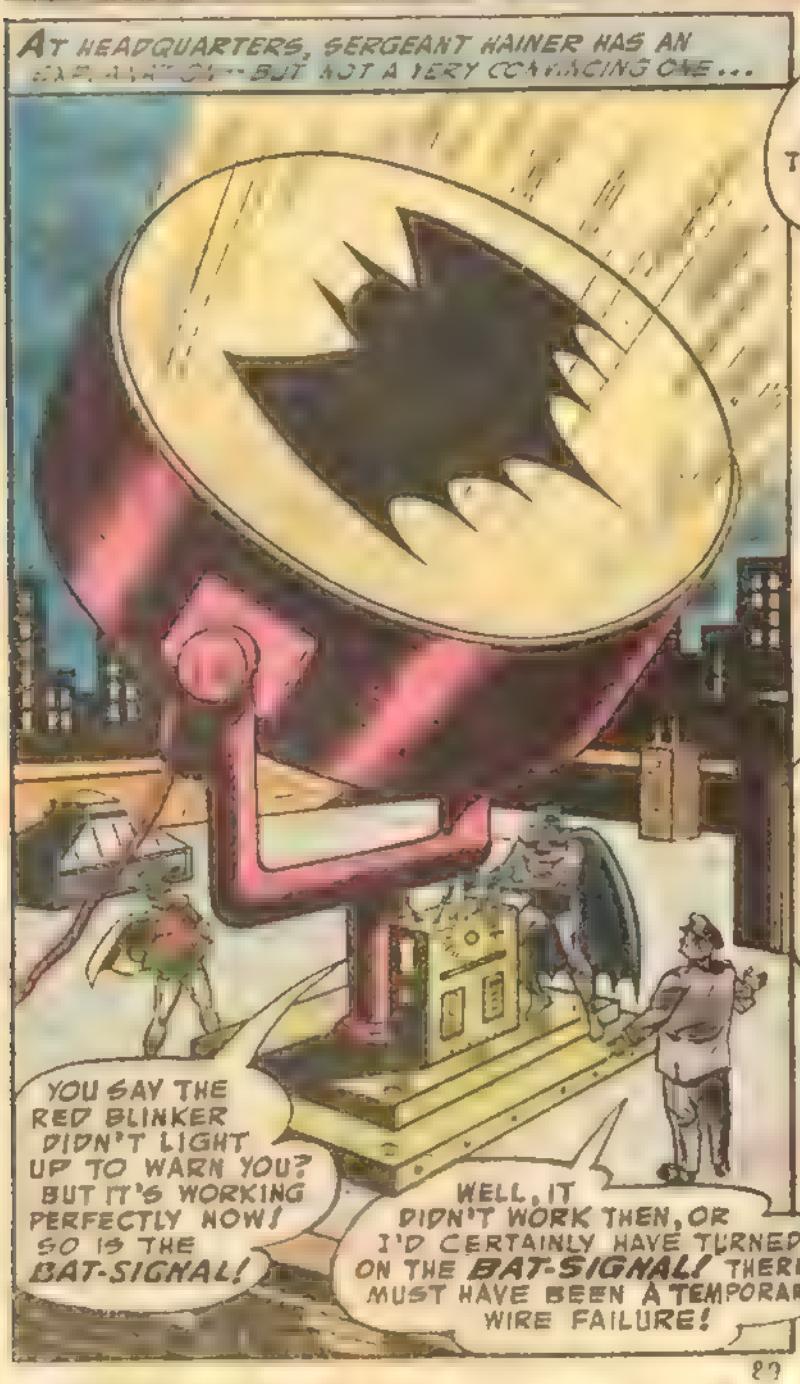
THE WATCHMAN INSIDE WAS STUNNED AND THE DIAMONDS WERE STOLEN--BUT HOW COULD ANY CROOKS GET IN? EVERY DOOR AND WINDOW WAS GUARDED BY THE MODERN NEW ELECTRIC-EYE ALARMS!

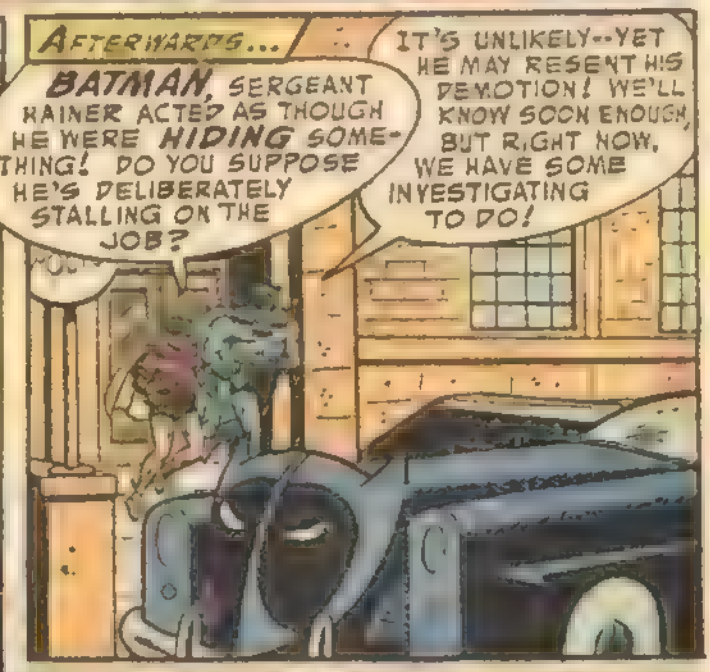
IN OTHER WORDS, AN ALARM SHOULD'VE GONE OFF THE MOMENT A WINDOW OR DOOR WAS OPENED!

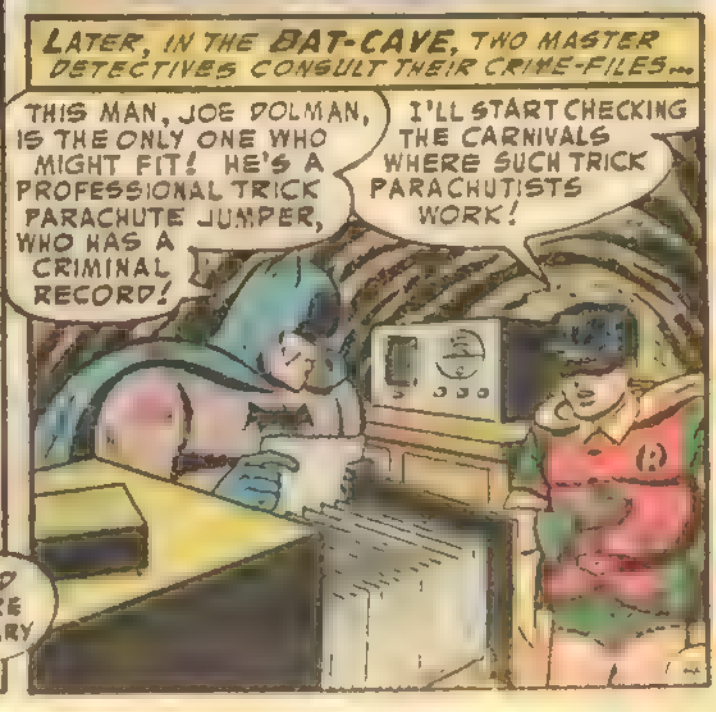
EXACTLY...AND THE ELECTRONIC EYE **DID** SOUND THE ALARM WHEN THE CROOKS **ESCAPED** THROUGH THIS WINDOW! BUT HOW DID THEY GET **IN** WITHOUT AN ALARM?

HMM...THESE FOOTPRINTS HAVE TRACES OF TAR ON THEM! LET'S LOOK AT THE ROOF!

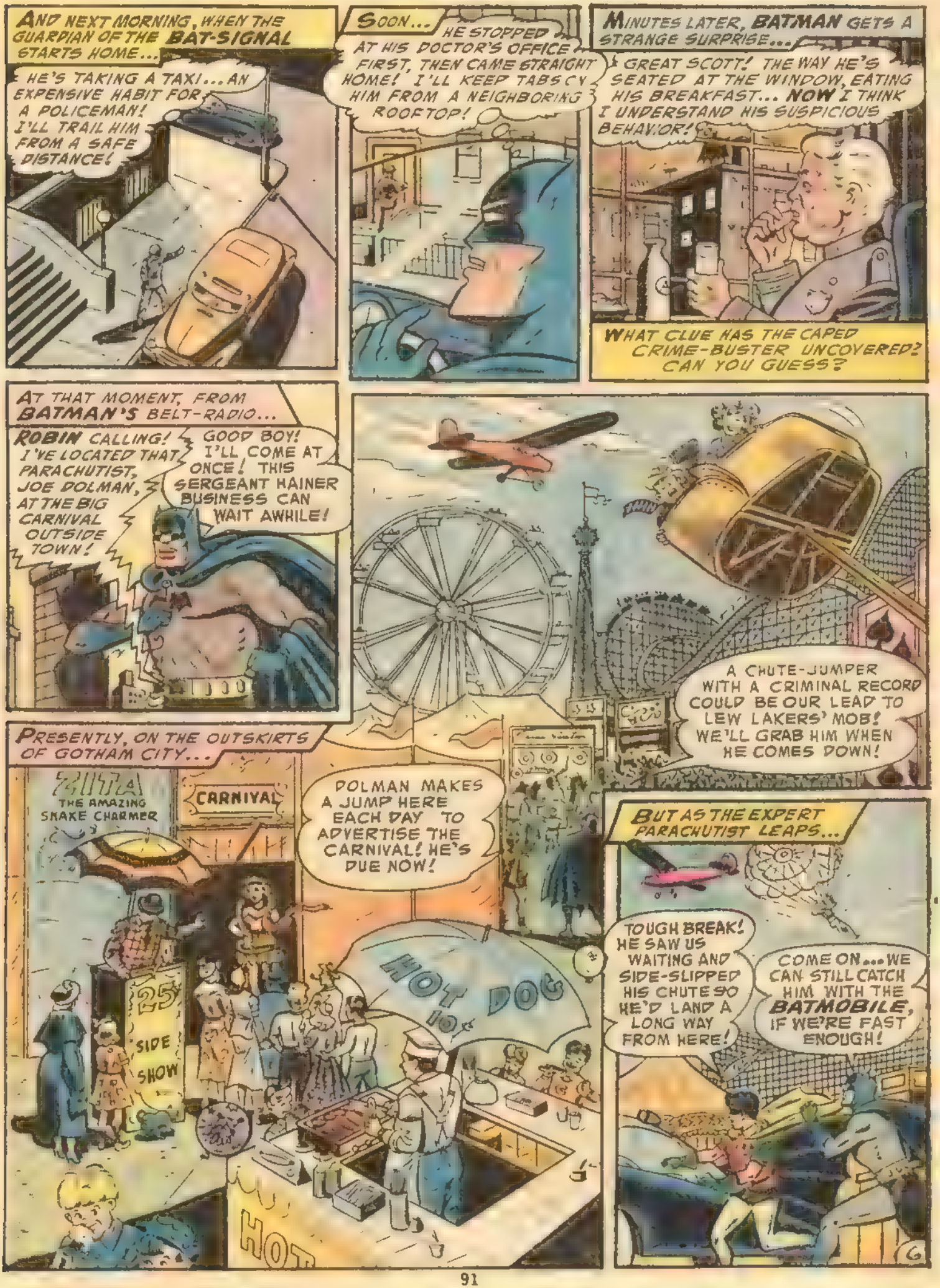

SHORTLY, ATOP THE BUILDING...
YES, THE TARRED ROOF PUT THOSE TRACES ON THEIR SHOES, AND-- AND... THERE'S A PARACHUTE!
BATMAN, THIS IS SOMETHING BRAND-NEW! ONE OF THEM GOT IN FROM THE ROOF, A PARA-CROOK, WHO MUST HAVE JUMPED FROM A LOW-FLYING PLANE!
PARA-CROOKS ARE SOMETHING NEW AND DANGEROUS! A ROOF IS ANY BUILDING'S LEAST-GUARDED SPOT!
YES, THIS IS SERIOUS...SO SERIOUS, IN FACT, THAT I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T FLASH THE BAT-SIGNAL WHEN YOU GOT THE ROBBERY ALARM!
BUT I DID ORDER THE BAT-SIGNAL FLASHED! I TURNED ON THE BLINKER THAT ALERTS SERGEANT HAINER!
YET IT DIDN'T SHOW! I'D BETTER CHECK WITH THE SERGEANT!


AT HEADQUARTERS, SERGEANT HAINER HAS AN [illegible] -- BUT NOT A VERY CONVINCING ONE...
YOU SAY THE RED BLINKER DIDN'T LIGHT UP TO WARN YOU? BUT IT'S WORKING PERFECTLY NOW! SO IS THE BAT-SIGNAL!
WELL, IT DIDN'T WORK THEN, OR I'D CERTAINLY HAVE TURNED ON THE BAT-SIGNAL! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A TEMPORARY WIRE FAILURE!


AFTERWARDS...
BATMAN, SERGEANT HAINER ACTED AS THOUGH HE WERE HIDING SOMETHING! DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S DELIBERATELY STALLING ON THE JOB?
IT'S UNLIKELY--YET HE MAY RESENT HIS DEMOTION! WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH, BUT RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE SOME INVESTIGATING TO DO!


LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE, TWO MASTER DETECTIVES CONSULT THEIR CRIME-FILES...
THIS MAN, JOE DOLMAN, IS THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT FIT! HE'S A PROFESSIONAL TRICK PARACHUTE JUMPER, WHO HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD!
I'LL START CHECKING THE CARNIVALS WHERE SUCH TRICK PARACHUTISTS WORK!

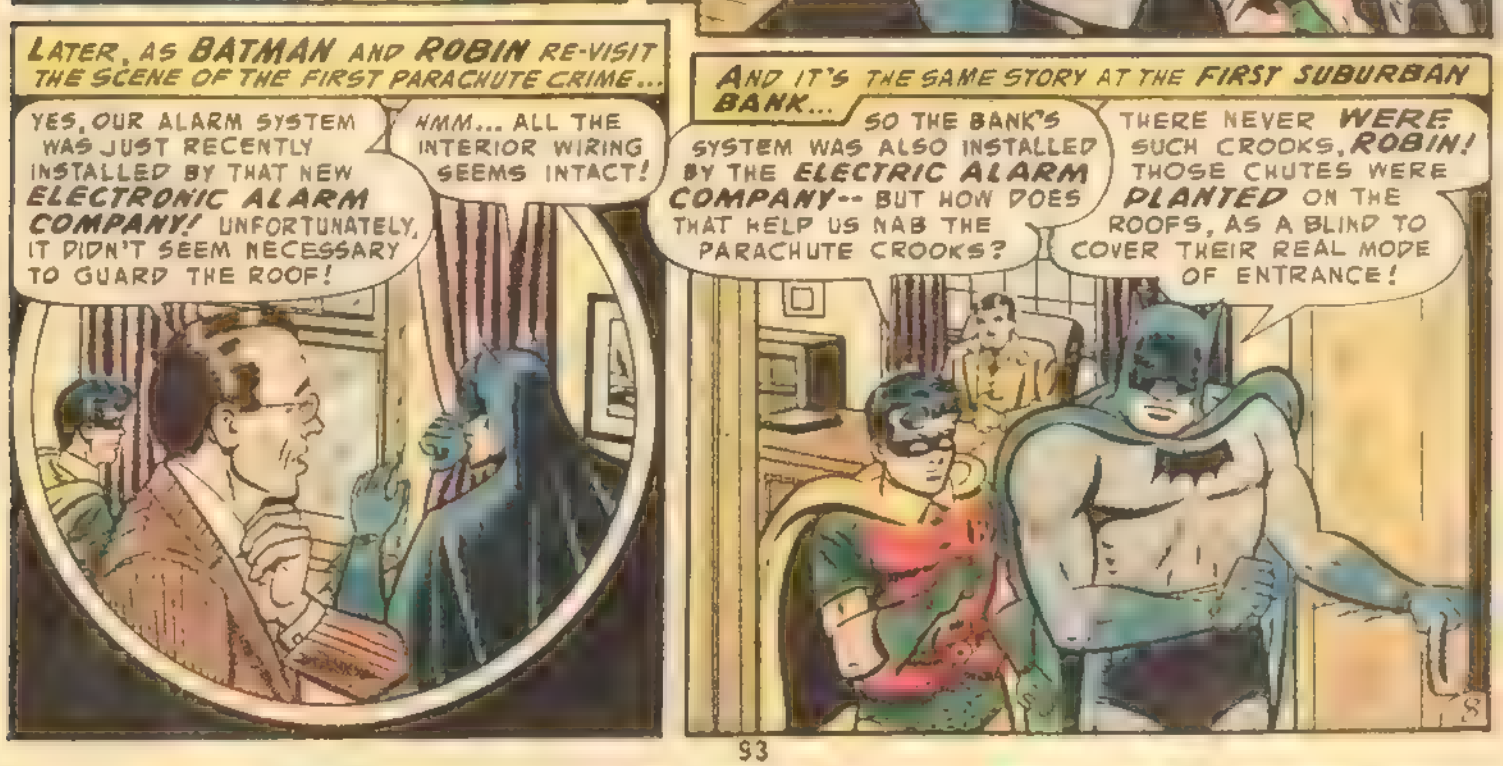
AND WHILE ROBIN BEGINS HIS SEARCH, BATMAN CONDUCTS AN AERIAL VIGIL OVER THE CITY...
NO SIGN YET OF LEW LAKERS' MOB! FUNNY, THOUGH... I CAN'T KEEP FROM WORRYING ABOUT OLD HARVEY! WHY DID HE ACT SO STRANGELY?
JUST THEN...
OH, OH--- THOSE POLICE CARS... HEADING FOR THE FIRST SUBURBAN BANK... SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! I'D BETTER LAND IN THE PARK AND INVESTIGATE!
BUT ALREADY, THERE HAS BEEN A FATAL DELAY, SO THAT BY THE TIME BATMAN REACHES HIS DESTINATION...
YOU'RE TOO LATE! IT WAS A ROBBERY BY PARACHUTE AGAIN! THE NEW ELECTRONIC ALARM DIDN'T GO OFF UNTIL THEY ESCAPED OUT A WINDOW!
THE BAT-SIGNAL WOULD'VE GOTTEN ME HERE IN TIME! I'M GOING TO SEE WHY IT DIDN'T FLASH!
AT HEADQUARTERS, HOWEVER, THE UGLY MYSTERY ONLY DEEPENS...
SORRY... I DIDN'T GET ANY BLINKER-ORDER TO FLASH THE BAT-SIGNAL!
BUT YOU MUST HAVE! I PRESSED THE BUTTON! SERGEANT HAINER, I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT YOU'RE IN LEAGUE TO PROTECT THESE PARA-CROOKS!
THIS IS THE MAN WHO HEADS THAT MOB! ARE YOU PROTECTING HIM BY NOT TURNING ON THE BAT-SIGNAL?
WHY SHOULD I? I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE IN MY LIFE!
NOW I KNOW HE'S LYING, BATMAN-- BECAUSE HE TWICE ARRESTED LEW LAKERS, AND KNOWS HIM WELL!
WE'LL LEAVE HIM IN CHARGE OF THE BAT-SIGNAL FOR THE TIME BEING! I'LL FOLLOW HIM WHEN HE GOES OFF DUTY, TO SEE IF HE'S CONTACTING LAKERS' MOB!
5

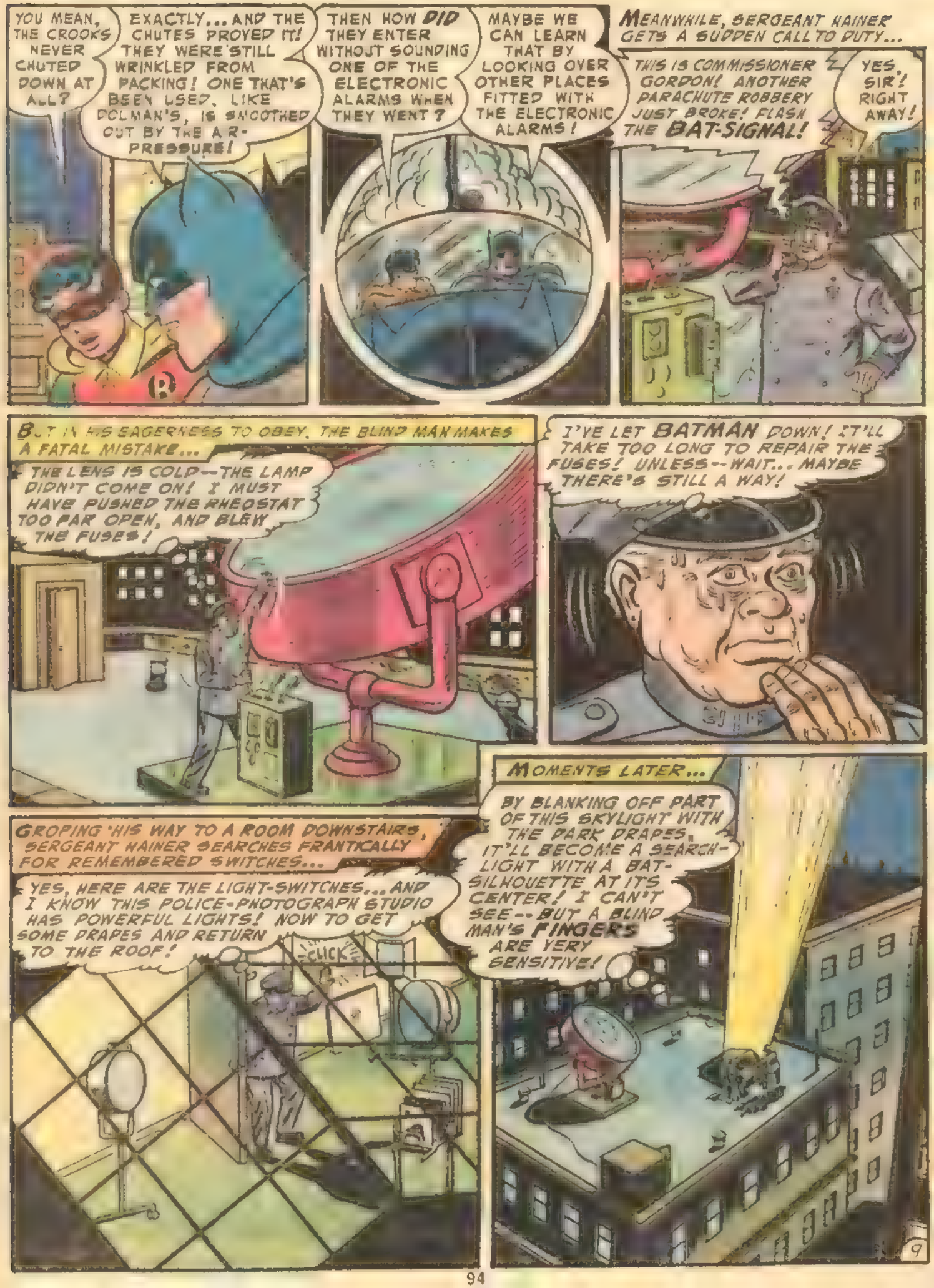

AND NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE GUARDIAN OF THE BAT-SIGNAL STARTS HOME...
HE'S TAKING A TAXI... AN EXPENSIVE HABIT FOR A POLICEMAN! I'LL TRAIL HIM FROM A SAFE DISTANCE!
SOON... HE STOPPED AT HIS DOCTOR'S OFFICE FIRST, THEN CAME STRAIGHT HOME! I'LL KEEP TABS ON HIM FROM A NEIGHBORING ROOFTOP!
MINUTES LATER, BATMAN GETS A STRANGE SURPRISE...
GREAT SCOTT! THE WAY HE'S SEATED AT THE WINDOW, EATING HIS BREAKFAST... NOW I THINK I UNDERSTAND HIS SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR!
WHAT CLUE HAS THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER UNCOVERED? CAN YOU GUESS?
AT THAT MOMENT, FROM BATMAN'S BELT-RADIO...
ROBIN CALLING! I'VE LOCATED THAT PARACHUTIST, JOE DOLMAN, AT THE BIG CARNIVAL OUTSIDE TOWN!
GOOD BOY! I'LL COME AT ONCE! THIS SERGEANT HAINER BUSINESS CAN WAIT AWHILE!
A CHUTE-JUMPER WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD COULD BE OUR LEAD TO LEW LAKERS' MOB! WE'LL GRAB HIM WHEN HE COMES DOWN!
PRESENTLY, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY...
CARNIVAL
THE AMAZING SNAKE CHARMER
25 SIDE SHOW
HOT DOG 10¢
DOLMAN MAKES A JUMP HERE EACH DAY TO ADVERTISE THE CARNIVAL! HE'S DUE NOW!
BUT AS THE EXPERT PARACHUTIST LEAPS...
TOUGH BREAK! HE SAW US WAITING AND SIDE-SLIPPED HIS CHUTE SO HE'D LAND A LONG WAY FROM HERE!
COME ON... WE CAN STILL CATCH HIM WITH THE BATMOBILE, IF WE'RE FAST ENOUGH!

EXPERT MANEUVERING BRINGS THE BATMOBILE TO THE RIGHT SPOT AT THE RIGHT TIME...
GOT HIM!
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME, BATMAN? I'VE GONE STRAIGHT SINCE I SERVED TIME FOR THAT SMUGGLING JOB!
WITH YOUR EXPERT CHUTE-CONTROL, YOU COULD HAVE LANDED ON DOWNTOWN ROOFS AND OPENED UP BUILDINGS FOR LAKERS' MOB!
BUT I DIDN'T! YOU CAN'T PROVE I DID!
NOT EVEN AN EXPERT PARACHUTIST WOULD TRY SUCH A JUMP ON A SMALL ROOF! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
YOU'D SAY THAT ANYWAY, DOLMAN! BUT I'VE GOT A LEAD NOW--AND THOUGH WE CAN'T CHARGE YOU WITH ANYTHING, DON'T TRY TO LEAVE TOWN!
LATER, EN ROUTE BACK TO THE CITY...
BATMAN, DO YOU THINK OLD HARVEY HAINER IS LAKERS' ACCOMPLICE? AFTER ALL, HOW COULD HE HAVE MISSED SEEING A PARACHUTIST DESCENDING?
I BELIEVE I KNOW WHY HARVEY FAILED IN HIS DUTY... BUT BEFORE I CAN BE CERTAIN, I WANT TO STOP SOMEWHERE FIRST!
AND AFTER A VISIT TO HARVEY'S DOCTOR...
LEARN ANYTHING, BATMAN?
YES--I'VE VERIFIED MY SUSPICIONS! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE IT OUT WITH HARVEY WHEN HE COMES ON DUTY!
THAT NIGHT, WHEN THE VETERAN POLICEMAN REPORTS AGAIN TO HIS POST AT THE BAT-SIGNAL.
THAT PROVES IT! YOU WERE GOING TO WALK RIGHT INTO ME! HARVEY, YOU'RE BLIND!
WHAT--? H-HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?
7

WHEN I SAW YOU SITTING IN THE FULL BLAZE OF THE SUN WITHOUT BLINKING THIS MORNING, I GUESSED THE ANSWER! THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T FLASH THAT BAT-SIGNAL... BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T SEE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S SIGNAL!
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT, BATMAN... MY SIGHT HAS BEEN FAILING ME -- BECAUSE OF THAT OLD BULLET WOUND! BUT THE DOCTOR SAID I'D SOON RECOVER -- AND I WANTED TO STAY ON DUTY UNTIL I COULD SEE WELL AGAIN!
I UNDERSTAND, HARVEY -- AND I'M GOING TO HELP YOU OPERATE THE BAT-SIGNAL WITHOUT SEEING! FROM NOW ON, WE'LL USE A PHONE FOR ORDERS FROM THE COMMISSIONER!
WONDERFUL! I COULD HEAR HIS ORDERS THEN, AND TURN ON THE SIGNAL!

RIGHT! USE ONE HAND TO OPERATE A RHEOSTAT-CONTROL, AND PLACE THE OTHER ON THE LENS! THAT WAY, YOU CAN TELL BY THE HEAT IF THE BEAM IS ON!
SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH!
NOW WE'RE GOING TO TRACE DOWN A LEAD! BUT IF ANOTHER ROBBERY BREAKS, IT'S VITAL THAT YOU NOTIFY US BY THE BAT-SIGNAL AT ONCE!
DON'T WORRY... FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME!


LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN RE-VISIT THE SCENE OF THE FIRST PARACHUTE CRIME...
YES, OUR ALARM SYSTEM WAS JUST RECENTLY INSTALLED BY THAT NEW ELECTRONIC ALARM COMPANY! UNFORTUNATELY, IT DIDN'T SEEM NECESSARY TO GUARD THE ROOF!
HMM... ALL THE INTERIOR WIRING SEEMS INTACT!
AND IT'S THE SAME STORY AT THE FIRST SUBURBAN BANK...
SO THE BANK'S SYSTEM WAS ALSO INSTALLED BY THE ELECTRIC ALARM COMPANY -- BUT HOW DOES THAT HELP US NAB THE PARACHUTE CROOKS?
THERE NEVER WERE SUCH CROOKS, ROBIN! THOSE CHUTES WERE PLANTED ON THE ROOFS, AS A BLIND TO COVER THEIR REAL MODE OF ENTRANCE!


YOU MEAN, THE CROOKS NEVER CHUTED DOWN AT ALL?
EXACTLY... AND THE CHUTES PROVED IT! THEY WERE STILL WRINKLED FROM PACKING! ONE THAT'S BEEN USED, LIKE DOLMAN'S, IS SMOOTHED OUT BY THE AIR-PRESSURE!
THEN HOW DID THEY ENTER WITHOUT SOUNDING ONE OF THE ELECTRONIC ALARMS WHEN THEY WENT?
MAYBE WE CAN LEARN THAT BY LOOKING OVER OTHER PLACES FITTED WITH THE ELECTRONIC ALARMS!
MEANWHILE, SERGEANT HAINER GETS A SUDDEN CALL TO DUTY...
THIS IS COMMISSIONER GORDON! ANOTHER PARACHUTE ROBBERY JUST BROKE! FLASH THE BAT-SIGNAL!
YES, SIR! RIGHT AWAY!
BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS TO OBEY, THE BLIND MAN MAKES A FATAL MISTAKE...
THE LENS IS COLD--THE LAMP DIDN'T COME ON! I MUST HAVE PUSHED THE RHEOSTAT TOO FAR OPEN, AND BLEW THE FUSES!
I'VE LET BATMAN DOWN! IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG TO REPAIR THE FUSES! UNLESS--WAIT... MAYBE THERE'S STILL A WAY!
GROPING HIS WAY TO A ROOM DOWNSTAIRS, SERGEANT HAINER SEARCHES FRANTICALLY FOR REMEMBERED SWITCHES...
YES, HERE ARE THE LIGHT-SWITCHES... AND I KNOW THIS POLICE-PHOTOGRAPH STUDIO HAS POWERFUL LIGHTS! NOW TO GET SOME DRAPES AND RETURN TO THE ROOF!
CLICK
MOMENTS LATER...
BY BLANKING OFF PART OF THIS SKYLIGHT WITH THE DARK DRAPES, IT'LL BECOME A SEARCH-LIGHT WITH A BAT-SILHOUETTE AT ITS CENTER! I CAN'T SEE--BUT A BLIND MAN'S FINGERS ARE VERY SENSITIVE!
9

AND IN THE NIGHT SKY, AN EERIE SIGN FLARES ABOVE GOTHAM CITY...
THE BAT-SIGNAL! THAT MEANS ANOTHER "PARA-CROOK" ROBBERY! LET'S GO, ROBIN!
YES -- AND AFTER WHAT WE'VE FOUND, THERE'S NO DOUBT WHERE TO GO TO FOR THE ROBBERS!
WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, AS JUBILANT CRIMINALS RETURN TO THEIR HIDEOUT...
THIS BURGLAR-ALARM COMPANY IS A PERFECT FRONT FOR OUR JOBS! NOBODY'LL EVER FIGURE OUT HOW -- HEY! ALL THESE WIRES AND BELLS ... WHAT--?
WE DON'T WANT TO ALARM YOU BOYS, BUT WE HAD THESE WIRE TRAPS READY FOR YOU!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
RING
AND SO, BACK AT HEADQUARTERS...
LATER, WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE...
WHEN THEY INSTALLED ALARM SYSTEMS, THEY LEFT ONE WINDOW DISCONNECTED -- SO ENTRANCE WAS EASY! THEN THEY CONNECTED THE ALARM, JUST AFTER "BREAKING OUT" OF THAT SAME WINDOW!
AND WITH THE PARACHUTE THEY LEFT ON THE ROOF, NO ONE WOULD DREAM HOW THEY REALLY GOT IN!
SERGEANT HAINER, YOUR QUICK THINKING HAS EARNED YOU A VACATION WITH PAY!
THANKS, SIR! AND WHEN MY SIGHT IS NORMAL AGAIN, I WANT THIS SAME JOB AT THE BAT-SIGNAL! IT ISN'T EVERYONE WHO CAN SAY HE'S A PARTNER OF BATMAN!
10
THE END

SOMETHING BIG IS COMING FROM DC IN '74

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE OF BATMAN'S SUPER-SPECTACULAR MAGS!

IN THE FEBRUARY-MARCH SUPER-SPECTACULAR DETECTIVE COMICS #439...

ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER

BATMAN IN A STARTLINGLY DIFFERENT TALE... OF MURDER AND REVENGE!

PLUS... "BATMAN'S BEWITCHED NIGHTMARE!" THE ALL-NEW MANHUNTER AND OTHER EXCITING FEATURES!

AND IN THE MARCH-APRIL SUPER-SPECTACULAR BATMAN #255...

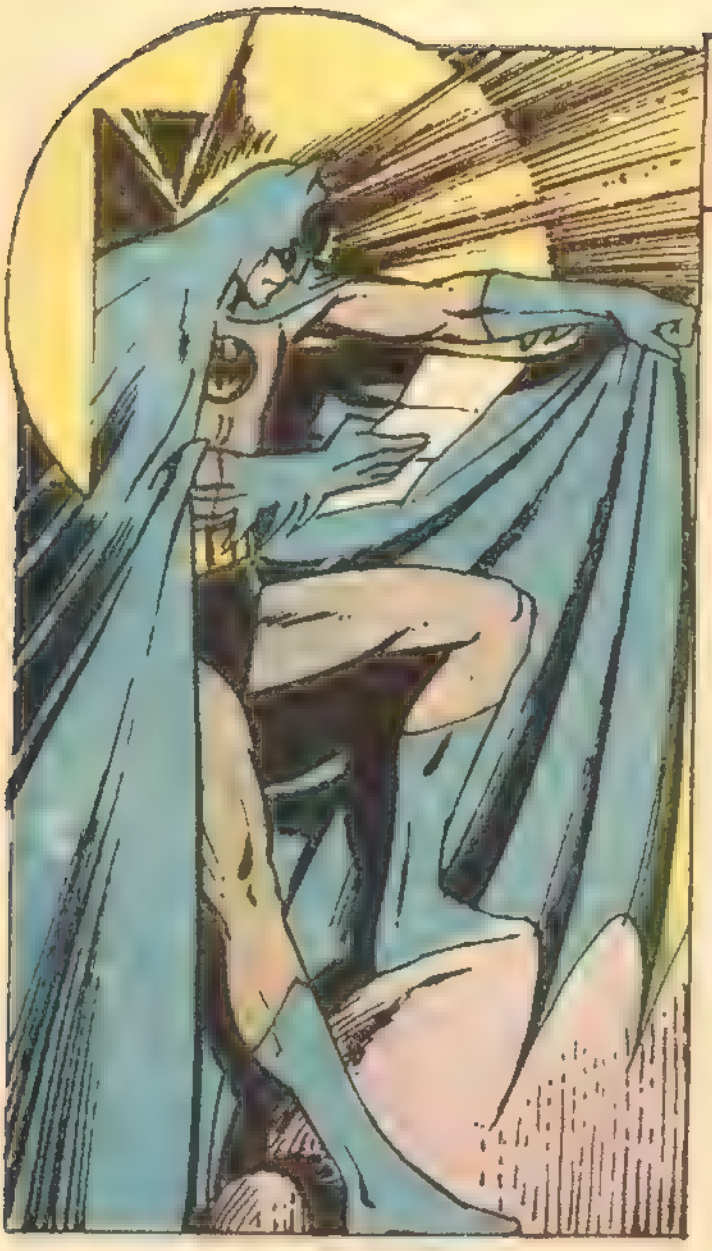
AN ALL-NEW BATMAN NOVEL... "MOON OF THE PROWLING WOLF!"

WRITTEN BY: LEN WEIN

ILLUSTRATED BY: NEAL ADAMS & DICK GIORDANO

PLUS... "THE OUTSIDER STRIKES AGAIN!" and OTHER CLASSIC BAT-TALES!

ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN DECEMBER



LETTERS to the BATMAN

S-1647

Dear Batman Fans:

With this issue of BATMAN, DC takes a GIANT step forward into 1974! Included in this surprise 100-page package (covers included in the page-count!) are the 20 *all-new* pages that would have appeared in the 32-page, 20¢ issue of *Batman* #254—"King of the Gotham Jungle" and "The Phenomenal Memory of Luke Graham!"

And for exciting *extras* there are 60 super-spectacular pages featuring cream-of-the-crop stories from *Batman's* history-making career, plus other special material.

Should this project prove profitable, we plan to increase the amount of original material; while it's great to be able to look *back* at *Batman*, it's even better to look *forward* at what's in store for him (and *Robin*) next. And coming up in the next *Batman* (#255) is "Moon of the Prowling Wolf," an *all-new* 20-page, novel-length thriller by the *Shazam*-winning Len Wein, illustrated by the ever-popular, ever-procrastinating Neil Adams! And once again there'll be 60 pages or so of super-spectacular Batman material of yesteryear.

Now . . . on with LETTERS TO THE BATMAN . . . increased to two pages for this issue. Should that be the length you favor, that's the way it'll be from now on, right? Write!

—JULIUS SCHWARTZ, Editor

Dear Editor

Denny O'Neal Adams . . . one name from two . . . a label this comix fan has found convenient time and again to capsulate what he finds best, most mature, most respectable, most fascinating, about comix-reading in the late sixties and early seventies.

Denny O'Neil, the writer that DC trusted with the task of bringing the real world into the comix magazine universe; Neal Adams, the supremely realistic artist, the natural choice to put O'Neil's scripts into panel form. Through the great *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* series and several adventures of *The Batman* in his own mag and *Detective*, they created for the field a new standard of excellence. In *Batman* #251 their latest, and very long-awaited resuscitation of the greatest comix villain of all, the *Joker*, comes to be, and well, *wow!* It's truly a terrific issue.

"The old Joker is back . . . the killer!" So I heard Editor Julius Schwartz describe "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge" on a recent visit to New York. And indeed this *Joker* is so old . . . so different from the battle-of-witsy friendly enemy he was when we last saw him that many of my fellow readers must have wondered what O'Neil has done with this ancient and well-established character.

I'm luckier than most because the homicidal lunatic in this story was not unfamiliar to me . . . I had the pleasure of reading *Batman's* first issue, *33* years old now, once upon a time, and I could catch the references. That first story featured a mad killer with a deformed face, a criminal tracking down people that sent him to jail and killing them with a poison that left them with faces like Sardonicus, curled in a laugh-rictus.

Denny O'Neal Adams is nothing if not contemporary . . . and their *GL/GA* hallmark was topical relevance, the real world. So it was here, too . . . for how much more real is it to have a criminal mad, or old, or punch-crazy, or simply stupid, than just-one-of-the-characters, more enviable and intelligent than most? I applaud the realism of this *Joker*, because although it hurts a little to say good-bye to the laughing villain Cesar Romero played so well on the tube, that pain is the pain of recognition. It was a fine story, and I hope the two men who combine to make one name, and one triumphant statement of the value of comix, come back before us again.

GUY LILLIAN III, New York, N.Y.

(How appropriate that we initiate this department with a LOC from our favorite Guy . . . *whose famous* III *tag should be replaced with a* C . . . *the Roman numeral for* 100, *representing the number of letters Guy's had published!—JS)*

Dear Editor:

FEAR! Gentlemen, *Batman* #251 has left me rattling in FEAR! Never again will I be able to drive in my car on a rain-swept night without the image of that maniacal face from the splash page screaming in my mind. You see, gentlemen, that's why the *Joker* frightens me far more than a hundred vampires could ever hope to do. That *Joker* is the real thing, and he doesn't need a gush of blood flowing in every other panel to send shivers up my arms and down my spine. Just a small gesture of a smile from that white-bleached face; let those grotesque teeth pose menacingly from that triangulated mouth just once, *Mr. Joker*, and you'll find me madly running in any direction away from you!

Neal Adams has done what I thought only Jack Kirby could do—create a really true evil villain. The kind that only visits you in your dreams. (Dreams? Nay, *nightmares!*) This is the *Joker* as he should be—stripped of his muscles, his body a spindly bony structure that only his warped mind could occupy. Kudos to Adams for this new and far more exciting insight into the *King of Evil*.

Double kudos need to go to Denny O'Neil for this eerie tale. The way *The Batman* and Packy White went from

punching bag to fisticuffs to downright fight was beautiful—just beautiful. And those grizzly saccharine smiles on all the victims . . . absolutely stunning. Then the *Joker* appears on page 6. Here he's been out doing all this dirty work and at last we see him in ghastly action . . . laugh and all. And then that absolutely notorious appearance on page 10, panel 3. My God, my teeth are still chattering!

Now that kudos have been justly handed out, I'd like to give special thanks to all those responsible for *Batman* #251. This issue represents everything I believe a good horror story can be in the comix format.

And OH! Please give extra special thanks to *The Batman* for capturing the *Joker* and allowing me a good night's sleep . . . for this is the stuff that sends you clutching for the covers.

—*JOHN BACON, Davenport, Iowa*

(You may think you are safe in bed, but keep those covers handy for clutching . . . for even at this very moment the Joker *is laughing up his sleeve as he plans his next plot against* Batman *& Company for a forthcoming issue! One thing's for sure: if the* Clown Prince of Crime *fails to show up soon, the* Feline Fury *is all set to make an appearance in an* all-new *20-pager, "Catwoman's Circus Caper," courtesy of Denny O'Neil, Irv Novick, Dick Giordano, and—*JS*)*

Dear Editor:

Ten months is a long time to wait for anything, even for an O'Neil/Adams *Batman* story about the *Joker;* and after all that time I found the story disappointing. The writing was excellent, the art extraordinary, the cover outstanding; but I think "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge" fell short of being a classic, and a classic is what I had been anticipating.

I was not enthusiastic about this story because I thought that the *Joker's* personality and character were badly misinterpreted. The *Joker* was too much like *Two-Face:* he was utterly and totally insane. The *Joker* as I remembered him was just slightly cracked—and possessed a weird and rather sick sense of humor. He also seldom worked alone, and he seemed almost naked to me without his mob.

I was not satisfied with Neal Adams' artistic interpretation of him either. His face was diabolically magnificent—it has never been drawn better. But he was too tall and much too skinny—too freakish in figure as well as face. He seemed much too insubstantial for me.

All in all this was an excellent issue and I hope we do not have to wait ten months for Neal Adams to strike again. I also hope it will not be another six or seven years for the *Joker's* next appearance. The *Joker* heads the list of *Batman's* all-time foes, and I do not think it would be using him too much if he showed up every couple of years.

—*MICHAEL SLOAN, Canaan, N.H.*

(The Joker *will definitely be appearing more often in the future than he has been in the past—whether in an all-new "classic" or a gem from yesteryear, or whether teaming up with (or against)* The Batman *in* Brave & Bold *#111 in "Death Has the Last Laugh!" As for your dissatisfaction with Neal's artistic interpretation of the* Joker, *consider this extract from a letter written by a fellow-critic.—*JS*)*

Dear Editor:

The *Joker!* This is the *Clown Prince of Crime* as he was always meant to be! Not the watered-down version whom we were subjected to for so long, but the REAL *Joker:* grotesque, insane, fiendishly brilliant. The murders were well in keeping with the *Joker's* personality, especially the third, which was at once shocking and hilarious. As for the art, Neal Adams' is the definitive portrayal of this, perhaps the most fascinating villain in comix.

—*JIM SHEA, Medford, Mass.*

*(And let us not neglect the co-star of this "classic", as the next correspondent classifies it.—*JS*)*

Dear Editor:

May I say that *Batman* #251 was a classic in its field? If I can't, it's tough, because I already did!

The *Joker's* return was just too perfect for words. The script was *ooh!* The art was *ahhh!* Neal's art has now reached a peak of excellence unrivaled at any time in the comix world. His work on the mad *Joker* made the character come alive; *The Batman* once again became the grim, determined—yet human—creature of the night. That is as he should be. Neal's art, coupled with Denny's brilliant writing, makes *Batman* what he truly is . . . he is a fantasy; he is reality; he is a tight-lipped avenger; he is superhuman; no matter what you may call him—he *is.* Perhaps he is more human inside than he could ever show. Perhaps, instead of worship, he should be pitied, for his self-inflicted life of justice-seeking. But he is *something!*

—*GAIL BURT, Temple City, Calif.*

Dear Editor:

In *Batman* #251 I noticed something peculiar. On page 18 *Batman* is fighting the shark and we can see that he is wearing his utility belt. On page 19 and all the pages that follow we can see that he is not wearing his utility belt. But there is no break in the action, no opportunity to remove the belt and no reason for doing so even if there had been one. The story does not seem to be incomplete but the lack of the belt does not look like a mistake; it looks deliberate. Is there an explanation for this mystery?

—WILLIAM J. DENHOLM III, Menlo Park, Calif.

(There is indeed an explanation for the missing utility belt; an excellent *explanation, Neal Adams assures us. Neal promised to send us his explanation in time to tag it onto your letter, but as usual, NEAL ADAMS HAS MISSED ANOTHER DEADLINE!—*JS*)*

Dear Editor:

The latest, greatest *Batman Super-Spec* (DC-20, Sept., 1973) devoted to the *Caped Crusader's* paradoxical foe *Two-Face* was enough to make a fan rush right out and buy a couple more copies of this masterpiece, just for good measure! For the first time, readers were able to see the entire saga of the world's most pathetic and frightening villain, within the pages of one magazine.

The *Two-Face* series was a well-planned and carefully written one, something quite rare in comix, particularly at that time. Even the art was superior. The climax of *Two-Face's* career and his return to the "good side" of the law was beautiful! It makes one realize that years later, poor Harvey Kent (renamed Dent) should again suffer facial scars and take his place once more among the villains of *Batman's Rogues' Gallery.*

The *Black Canary* story was excellent, but I've yet to read one that wasn't. She, too, had artists and writers that might have soared her to great heights, had *The Flash* mag she appeared in not been cancelled so early in her career. *Wildcat's* bout with the *Huntress* was quite good, too. Gil Stack's art seems oddly like Jack Kirby's work of that period.

The *Dr. Mid-Nite* and *Starman* stories were enjoyable, but both had weak plotlines and ended too abruptly. Both heroes are good ones but I've seen them in better stories than these. The *Blackhawk* story was nice. Enough said.

The *Spectre* story was just short of a full-scale disaster. Art was poor, writing was worse. The monsters the *Spectre* fought were too cartoony to be frightening. Let's face it: the *Spectre* stories of the 60's were 100% better than those of the 40's.

—*SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.*

(Gil Stack at that period, even as now, acknowledges his Jack Kirby influence. Furthermore, the "Gil Stack" of yesteryear is the Gil Kane *of today!—*JS*)*

Address all communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019.

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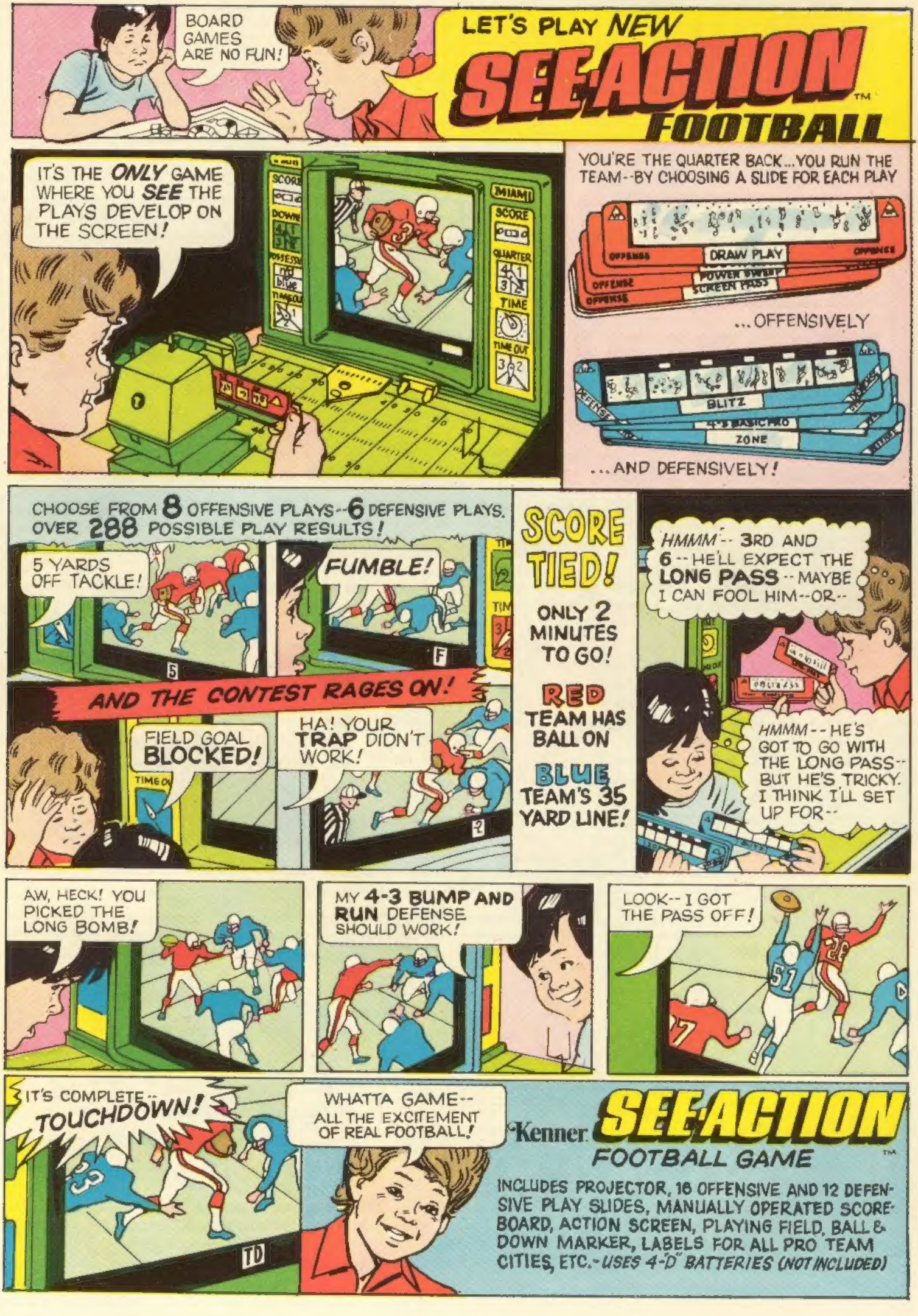
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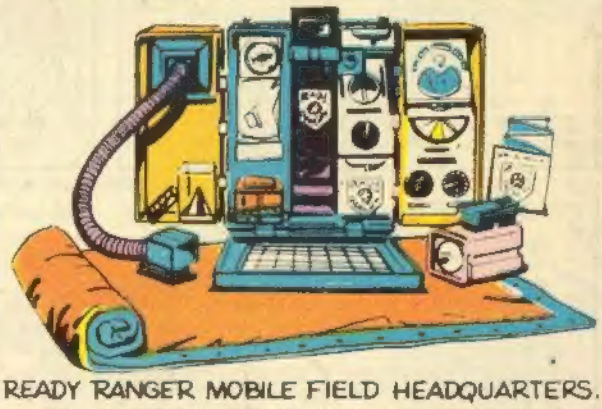

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